

Local

Benavente: We have received many requests for documents

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

It's not just Sen. Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero who has asked for documents relating to the

Pandemic Unemployment Compensation benefits. In fact, her request is on top of similar requests made by many rep-

resentatives and such requests are taking away from the Department of Labor time to process these benefits, according to Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente on Friday.

Asked during a radio news briefing about DeLeon Guerrero's Open Government Act requests to produce documents, Benavente said they are mandated to keep PUA and PFUC information confidential.

"If and when we do receive a document that says, 'I hereby authorize senator so and so, and representative so and so, and to act on my behalf, then we try to provide information to the authorized representative,'" she said.

Last Thursday, DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) submitted an OGA request to Benavente, asking her to submit within 10 calendar days all internal allotment advices related to PUA and PFUC funding.

The senator also requested, among other documents, the de-obligation documentation of the \$14.9 million overpayments collected and returned to the federal grantor, as stated during Labor's appearance in the Senate chambers last Feb. 3.

DeLeon Guerrero said she has been receiving a lot of messages from applicants that are still waiting for their application/benefits status.

At Friday's press briefing, Benavente said they have received requests, for example, from Sen. DeLeon Guerrero, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan), and Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan). Benavente said they are seeing an increase in the number of these requests and these are taking

their time away from doing the normal run of the PUA application process.

"Sometimes it's a bit frustrating, but we're doing our best trying to help everyone," she said.

She reiterated that they received 39,000 applications and they are adjudicating 10,000 that are deemed eligible.

Of the 39,000 applicants, Benavente said 26,000 were disqualified because of the fact that they were not eligible for the COVID-19 reasons that are listed in the benefits rights information handbook.

As of that day (Friday), she said, they have about 2,509 PUA applicants who

are pending for review and adjudication.

"So 2,509 is our goal to finish within the next couple of weeks," she said.

Benavente said they have intercept-

ed \$24 million worth of fraudulent claims and that many are from outside the CNMI. "We have stopped that from going out and being wasted so that this program can benefit the people who are actually eligible for these benefits," she said.

The Labor secretary said the procedure takes time as they review every single document, address, and bank account. "There's so many documents and there's a misconception, I think, with some folks that all it takes is a click of a computer," she said.

Benavente noted that the meet with the U.S. Labor Department every week and it has reviewed their implementation procedures, plans, and standing operating procedures.



Benavente



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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Still 8 weeks to get new PH passport

The eight-week process beginning with submitting a Philippine passport application to the Philippine Honorary Consulate office on Saipan' and ending with the Philippines sending batches of new passports back to Saipan remains relatively unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to Philippine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago.

However, Arago said the recent delays that the Philippine Honorary Consulate has been experiencing are due to the reduced number of consular outreach missions the Philippine Consulate General in Guam has been doing on Saipan.

According to Arago, the Philippine Consulate General-Guam used to conduct around

six outreach missions to Saipan every year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it did not conduct any outreach missions in 2020 and is only starting to visit Saipan more regularly this year. This has resulted in a backlog of thousands of Philippine passport applications submitted to the honorary consulate that await further processing by the Guam staff.

This is because only the Guam consulate has the necessary biometric equipment and authority to do so.

The last time the Philippine Consulate General-Guam did an outreach mission was from March 18 to April 11 at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe. (Joshua Santos)

PH consular outreach on June 29-July 16

The Philippines Consulate General in Guam will be holding a consular mission here on Saipan from June 29 to July 16 at the Philippine Honorary Consulate office at the Sun Palace Hotel in Susupe.

According to a news release, it said consulate staff will capture biometrics and personal data for the further processing of Philippine passport applications from thousands of Saipan's Filipinos. This mobile consular outreach will happen just in time before the CW-1 visa renewal deadline of Sept. 30.

In an interview with Philip-

pine honorary consul Glicerio "Eli" Arago, he said is more than happy that another consular outreach will be taking place on Saipan, and looks forward to meeting new Consul General Patrick John U. Hilado. Hilado only recently became consul general for the Guam office, assuming the position on May 3.

"All of us are happy because at last we are going to [renew] the passports of our *kapabayans* (compatriots). It's good timing, because the CW renewal deadline on Sept. 30 is very near already," said Arago.

The CW-1 visa program al-

lows employers in the CNMI to temporarily hire nonimmigrant workers. For many Filipinos on Saipan, renewing their CW-1 visa status is a must, and presentation of an updated PH passport is a requirement for visa renewal.

Arago said that Saipan's honorary consulate has a backlog of more than 2,000 passport renewal applications it has received since Guam's last visit in March, and expects to see even more availing of consular services come June 29. Arago, however, has faith in his staff and volunteers to make things go smoothly next week. (Joshua Santos)

WIA partners with PSS in Summer Boot Camp

This summer, high school students throughout the CNMI will have the opportunity to take part in an interconnected program that will teach and train them in in-demand sectors: Construction, Nursing, Education, and Entrepreneurship.

The program, called the Summer Boot Camp program, which is a partnership between the CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency and the Public School System's Career Technical Education Program, will run for five weeks beginning on June 28, 2021, and ending on July 30, 2021.

At the end of the program, students will earn an industry-recognized certificate, paving a career pathway into the workforce or postsecondary education.

of Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente believes this cross-agency partnership can help reduce the skills gap and meet the growing demands of the CNMI's workforce.

"This partnership aligns to one of the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act initiative to

develop strategies that support career pathways as a workforce investment activity to individuals with barriers to employment, including youths," she said. "...The programs are industry-focused and offers opportunities for sector partnerships with key stakeholders within those industry clusters. We are excited and anticipate on forging greater partnerships with PSS and other stakeholders."

of Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada said that PSS is excited to partner with DOL on this important initiative.

"PSS-Career Technical Education program in partnership with the Department of Labor has been a goal, and we are pleased it is finally coming to fruition," he said. "This is an accomplishment for the good of our community. This is the first of many collaborations and partnering between the Department of Labor and other agencies toward creating more opportunities for our students. This is an exciting time to re-imagine and redirect education services for our community." (PR)

Scheduled power service interruptions today

There will be scheduled power service interruptions today, June 22, 2021.

LOWER BASE

- Outage Time: 8:30am—11:30am (Estimated)
- Areas Affected: Lower Base (Seaplane Ramp Pl.)
- Circuit: Feeder 1
- Water Well Affected: None
- Wastewater Facility Affected: None
- Purpose: To perform systems maintenance on the Feeder 1 distribution circuit.

CHALAN KANOA AND AS PERDIDO

- Outage Time: 8:30am—12:30 p.m. (Estimated)
- Areas Affected: Chalan Kanoa (Partials of Dist. 2 and Dist. 3)
- Momentary Outages: 8:30am to 10am

Chalan Kanoa (Partials of Dist. 1, Dist. 2, Dist. 3, and

Dist. 4)

- Outage Time: 9:30am to 10:00am
- Areas Affected: As Perdido (As Perdido Rd., Pegge Pl., Aplok Dr., Bayak Dr., Faha Pl., Afula Ln., Nuhot Ln., Maguro Dr., Nufo Pl., Niyok Dr., Haiguas Ln., Teodoro Dr., Ramona Ln., Iriko Dr., Agua Ln., Atot Av., 999 Market, & Dabao Tire Shop)
- Circuit: Kiya 4
- Water Well Affected: None
- Wastewater Facilities Affected: A8 lift station (momentarily) and A 10 lift station
- Purpose: To perform systems maintenance on the Kiya 4 distribution circuit.

For more information, contact the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

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Flash flood warning, high surf and small craft advisories in effect

A flash flood watch is in effect on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through this evening.

Also, a high surf advisory is now

in effect in east and south facing reefs of the Marianas until 10am Wednesday morning.

A small craft advisory in effect

until 10am Wednesday.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI

Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the flash flood watch is in effect for a portion of the Marianas, including Rota, Tinian, and Saipan through Tuesday evening.

Heavy showers and thunderstorms associated with Tropical Depression 06W will affect the islands beginning last tonight and increase through this morning. Torrential rains could lead to flash flooding in low-lying and poor-drainage areas.

Rainfall of 3 to 5 inches with locally heavier amounts are possible through this evening.

A flash flood watch means that conditions may develop that lead to flash flooding. Flash flooding is a very dangerous situation. Residents are being advised that flash flooding can become life-threatening very quickly. Monitor conditions in your area and the latest forecasts and be prepared to take action if flash flood warnings are issued.

The high surf from the tropical

disturbance will create dangerous swimming and surfing conditions and localized beach erosion.

Tropical Depression 06W will pass near Guam today. Its approach and passage will cause surf to quickly build to hazardous levels overnight. Once 06W has moved west of the islands into the Philippine Sea Tuesday afternoon, surf will quickly subside.

Beachgoers and mariners are advised to continue to exercise precautionary measures when entering the water. Inexperienced swimmers should remain out of the water due to dangerous surf conditions.

Strongest winds and highest seas are expected Tuesday before gradually subsiding tonight. Strong winds and hazardous seas could capsize or damage vessels. Mariners should consider altering plans to avoid possible hazardous conditions. Remain in port, seek safe harbor, alter course, and/or secure the vessel for severe wind and seas.

(Saipan Tribune)

Legislative initiative clarifies DPL's authority over public lands funds

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) has introduced a legislative initiative that will clarify that the Department of Public Lands shall receive all moneys—including rental, fees, penalties, and money from court judgments—derived from public lands.

The legislative initiative seeks to amend Article 11 Section 5(g) of the CNMI Constitution to provide for rea-

sonable expenses by law, require the Legislature to approve and appropriate DPL's annual budget, and to prohibit the reprogramming of DPL's revenues.

Quitugua stated in the legislation that an amendment is needed to make DPL more fiscally transparent and accountable for its "reasonable expenses of administration and management."

The senator said the Legislature should provide by law and clarify the meaning of "reasonable expenses" of

administrative and management "in order to prevent DPL from running amok" with such expenses.

At the same time, he said, in order to prevent DPL from inflating its annual budget and unduly withholding any surplus revenues from the Marianas Public Land Trust, it is necessary for the Legislature to approve DPL's annual budget to ensure that it complements the department's actual personnel and operation requirements each fiscal year.



TINIAN PROJECT

Equipment Operator 2nd Class Austin Salinsky, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4, operates a front-end loader to add foundation material at a Tinian Harbor project site.

U.S. NAVY/CM2 WENHAN FAN

SPLIT

From Page 1

day and concluded in the explosive revelation: that the prosecution entered a crucial statement into evidence that they possibly knew was inadmissible to begin with.

During defense counsel Mark Scoggins' cross-examination of a minor who lived with Laniyo and the 3-year-old boy six months prior to his death, it was revealed that her testimony of having seen Laniyo punch the child in the face causing his split lip never happened.

The minor, who was one of the prosecution's key witnesses, admitted that she didn't actually see Laniyo punch

the 3-year-old. Instead, the deceased child allegedly told her about being punched in the face when he was alive.

The witness also admitted that she told the prosecution, led by assistant attorney general Coleen St. Clair, that she didn't actually see the punch but, instead, heard about it from the victim, making it a hearsay statement. However, the prosecution allegedly went ahead and made her testify about it in court as if she had seen it.

Hearsay evidence is not admissible in court unless the court decides otherwise. This means that even if a statement is really hearsay, it may still be admissible if the court makes an exception.

Prior to the cross-examination, the witness testified before the jury that

she saw Laniyo punch the child so hard it caused his lip to split.

In addition, she testified about Laniyo biting the child, about bruising she saw on the child's body, and about Laniyo locking the child in their room for days at a time.

Aside from the minor child, the prosecution also called to the stand the child's grandmother, Lourdes Fitial, and other relatives of Laniyo's partner, Lynn Fitial, including her sisters-in-law, Cecilia Taitano, and Leva Fitial.

The witnesses all testified about the bruises they observed on the child and the acts of abuse Laniyo did to the child like biting his fingers, hitting him with a broom, and locking him in the bedroom for days.

STORM

From Page 1

And Emergency Management Agency issued an advisory last night that localized flooding will be possible in low-lying and poor drainage areas. Check storm drains in your area to make sure they are not clogged. If planning anything outdoors, have a backup plan in place.

According to the National Weather

Service in Guam, the disturbance continues to move west-northwest at 13 mph and is expected to make a slight turn toward the northwest with a slight decrease in forward speed this afternoon and tonight. Maximum sustained winds currently remain at 35 mph with 06W forecasted to become a tropical storm sometime today.

The center of Tropical Depression 06W was last seen at about 125 miles southeast of Guam, about 150 miles

south-southeast of Rota, about 200 miles south of Tinian, and about 210 miles south of Saipan.

Because of the system, Saipan should expect heavier showers and isolated thunderstorms today and throughout the week.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point will be monitoring the movement of Tropical Depression 06W and will be issuing out bulletins as they become available.

CCC

From Page 1

employees is not an option for them as an autonomous agency, as per Office of the Attorney General, thus they implemented the terminations.

"It is sad and unfortunate, but a decision had to be made to smartly and cost-effectively defend the Commonwealth against any present and future legal challenges," he said.

Yeom said they have kept only the core employees to efficiently address their critical needs, with the mindset that their budget won't be replenished for a long while.

At the same time, he said, they have talked and will continue to talk

to various departments to see if the vast majority of the employees can be hired elsewhere.

"We really have recruited attractive candidates at CCC and I see that many will see smooth transitions within the government or private sector," Yeom said.

Last April 22, the CCC board ordered the indefinite suspension of IPI's gaming license and directed IPI to pay \$6.6 million in total penalty within six months and pay immediately \$15.5 million and \$3.1 million in annual casino exclusive license fee and annual casino regulatory fee, respectively.

The casino has been closed since March 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

MAN

From Page 1

imposed a \$50,000 cash bail on Edmund Altares Castaneda, 61, who is charged with sexual abuse of a minor in the first, second, and third degrees.

Castaneda was remanded back to the Department of Corrections and was ordered to return to court on June 25 at 10am for a preliminary hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo.

According to court documents, Castaneda was arrested at around 10:09am last Thursday after the victim's father called police upon learning from his son Castaneda's alleged molestation. In addition, the child alleged that Castaneda started molesting him since he was 5 or 6 years old.

As he was being transported to DOC soon after his arrest, Castaneda reportedly told police that he was "joking" with the boy and was just "playing" with him while trying to wake him up. He said he sat on the child in a joking manner and even pulled his shorts down and when the child refused to wake up, he left. He allegedly reiterated these statements during an inter-

view with the police.

The victim's father told police that Castaneda works as a construction worker for his father-in-law and he was in the area doing work for him. He rushed home after receiving a call from his wife stating that Castaneda had touched his son inappropriately.

The father further told police that when he got home he confronted Castaneda, during which his son came out of the restroom and was crying hysterically before telling him that Castaneda allegedly went inside his room and molested him. The father noted to police that Castaneda didn't say anything at that point.

In a forensic interview with the Department of Youth Services, the victim said he was sleeping when Castaneda allegedly came inside his room and molested him, which he described to the DYS advocate in detail. The child said Castaneda had been doing things like this since he was 5 or 6 and has occasionally kissed him on the lips.

Castaneda told police in an interview that he only "opened" the child's pants as a joke and he's always joking with him because he treats the child as a son.

OGM-SC being overwhelmed by the influx of federal grants

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With just nine staff manning the Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse, the lack of time and enough personnel are their biggest weakness, considering the many federal grants coming in to the CNMI.

Appearing before the Senate Special Committee on Office of Grants Management and State Clearinghouse chaired by Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, office administrator Epiphanyo E. Cabrera Jr. believes the OGM-SC should have 20 personnel to carry out their duties and obligations efficiently.

"Yes, we are overextended, spread thin, but we continue to trek on," said Cabrera in his testimony at the start of the four-day oversight hearing. The Senate committee is looking into alleged discrepancies in the OGM-SC report pertaining to some federal funds that the Commonwealth has received over the years.

Cabrera said, however, that they do not shy away from their tasks, whether its grants on one day, assisting with COVID-19 to improve health and safety of the community, undertaking a food relief drive on another day, or assisting with beautification and enhancement projects, or working alongside other government offices to strengthen federal programs and services.

He said the dynamics of the grant world never seems to stop, "whether it be a grant that is due the next day, a re-programming is needed to be done on our end, a transfer of charges had to be executed to prevent the loss of federal funds, or trying to get caught up with reports, while receiving notification that an additional form is needed for the 1,200 CNMI residents that applied for the CARES Act Fishing Relief grant assistance and the deadline is next week."

Cabrera said all these duties and responsibilities get tested

daily. For instance, they just received notification that the CNMI's State Plan for Outdoor Recreation has been approved and they have about one month to prepare grant proposals to kick-off the spending of \$3.8 million or that \$8.5 million in energy grants are available and that proposals are due by June 30, 2021.

"This is the world we live each day. It is dynamic and multi-level," he said.

In response to Sen. Vinnie Sablan's (Ind-Saipan) question, Cabrera said the information his office provided the committee shows that there are about 486 grants out there and over 800 business units that make up the financial network for federal grants. Cabrera said OGM cannot simply manage all the grants.

"Again there is only nine of us. We do, however, assist in the management of certain grants, particularly those that revolve around the Office of Insular Affairs," he said.

The administrator said many agencies were reluctant in the past to apply for competitive grants, but this is changing. "A lot of them are trying to take the onus of running their own grants. And when they cannot, they come out to our office, and we provide that guidance to them," Cabrera said.

Hofschneider said he couldn't over-emphasize the importance of OGM meeting deadlines. "And we don't expect anything less from this side when we request for information. We really didn't need to do this thing had we [gotten the] information beforehand. This platform is not the doing of the Senate. So I want to flush that out," Hofschneider said.

He said he's not being personal or anything because it's nothing like that. "But I just want to reiterate again, that it's an informational hearing that we want to get more guidance from your expertise," the senator told Cabrera.

In an interview after the

hearing, Hofschneider said they are doing the oversight hearing because there are several inquiries by his office with regards to grants and all the activities of OGM-SC.

Hofschneider said the OGM-SC was created five years ago to address a lot of the grants that are coming here from different agencies and many had non-compliance issue.

"That's the reason why we supported the clearinghouse structure. So this exercise is to allow the committee members or the Senate, in this case the Legislature too, to see where we're at as far as that is concerned," he said.

Hofschneider said because of this initial meeting, it's obvious that there are some elements in the statute that they need to revisit and potentially amend the law.

The Senate president said he also recognizes that OGM-SC has been doing a lot to bring in competitive grants and to assist agencies to the point where they admitted they're overwhelmed.

"So every year that we have budget season, even though they don't necessarily get direct appropriations since 2017 from the general fund, it is their responsibility to come to the Legislature and ask for assistance so that we don't fall into this reasoning they're overwhelmed with their task," he said.

Hofschneider said that's understood because there's a lot of grants that are coming in.

"So in order for the Legislature to understand the challenges, we need to have an understanding from them also to...feedback us information," he said.

Hofschneider said he called the meeting because of OGM-SC's lack of response to his letters and subsequent letters to some of the concerns being raised. He said he couldn't over-emphasize the need for Cabrera's cooperation with the Legislature because OGM-SC was created by law, and by endorsement by majority of the Legislature.

Kilili says Marianas not immune to impacts of human trafficking

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) has teamed up with Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Michigan) on a legislation that aims to strengthen detection of human trafficking incidents.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that he and Walberg introduced the Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, H.R. 3957, on Wednesday.

He said the Marianas is not immune to the impacts of human trafficking.

"Construction companies working [on] our islands have

lured foreign workers with false promises about wages and working conditions, only to withhold pay and confiscate passports," he said.

Sablan said human trafficking concerns were also behind the decision to deny H-2B visas for workers from the Philippines, although that ban is now lifted.

The delegate said

Although some of these problems have been addressed, Sa-



Sablan

blan said that federal agencies must remain vigilant and be given the tools they need to fight human trafficking.

He said their bill will ensure U.S. Department of Labor employees are taught how to recognize human trafficking and refer these cases to federal law enforcement.

Walberg said human trafficking is a terrible scourge and that they need to use every tool at their disposal to stop it from happening. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST A RELEASE OF FUNDS 06/22/2021

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

Saipan, MP 96950 | Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after July 08, 2021, the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington D.C., for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 P.L. 116-20, enacted on January 27, 2020, announced via Federal Register Notice, to undertake the following activity and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Isa Villas II MultiFamily/Apartment Project -Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Gap Financing through the CDBG-DR Housing Program The project consists of new construction of 56 housing units in three separate buildings that are part of the NMHC's LIHTC program. This is the second phase of a two-phase project. Phase 1 was completed in early 2021. The project has a gap funding shortfall of \$6.3 million that is needs to fulfill/committed prior to closing with the equity investor and construction lender.	Affordable Rental Housing	Capitol Hill, Saipan	\$34,669,081.00 CNMI plans to use approximately \$6,300,000.00 from the CDBG-DR Housing Program for Gap Financing. Other funding Sources: Tax Credit Equity: \$27,144,434.00;-Refundable Fees: \$50,250.00;-Deferred Development Fees: \$1,174,397.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) and is ready for public viewing on the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) website at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com; or you may visit the on file at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or NMHC CDBG-DR Office in Beach Road Chalan Laulau, Saipan, examined during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. You may submit comments from the following options: Via mail to P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan or drop-box located in front of the building; and Via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net. All comments received by **July 07, 2021, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Washington D.C. acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Washington D.C. will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of **fifteen days** following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to Ms. Tennille Smith Parker, DRSI Division Director, HUD, via email at Tennille.S.Parker@hud.gov; Tel: (202)402-4649. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

/s/ Ralph DLG Torres
Governor, CNMI

MCS holds 3 separate face-to-face graduation ceremonies



Mount Carmel School conferred 40 diplomas during her traditional commencement ceremony for the graduating class of 2021.

MCS



Mount Carmel School conferred 59 diplomas during her traditional commencement ceremony for the graduating eighth-grade class of 2021.

MCS

To conclude the 2020-2021 school year, Mount Carmel School held face-to-face ceremonies for all its kindergarten, eighth-grade, and 12th-grade graduates.

All the ceremonies were held at the Mount Carmel Cathedral with limited invited guests to meet COVID-19 safety restrictions. The graduation ceremonies were also streamed live online through the Mount Carmel School Facebook page for family and friends who were not able to attend in-person.

This year, Mount Carmel School conferred diplomas for 30 kindergarten students, 59 eighth-grade students, and 40 graduating seniors.

During her welcoming remarks, MCS principal Frances Taimanao congratulated all the students and thanked both the students and parents for their patience and support during the first full-school year during the pandemic.

"This commencement exercise marks another success for all of us especially during this pandemic. Open-

ing this school year was not easy. We were faced with a lot of challenges and changes, but we made it work and made sure we were all safe and guided by the COVID-19 guidelines. It took all of us, parents, grandparents, teachers, and students in our community to work together to get where we are right now. Thank you for standing along with us to make it today," said Taimanao.

Mount Carmel School's keynote speaker and director of institutional development, Victoria Deleon Guerrero, focused on the significance of fear during important moments in a person's life: "When that time comes, where you're faced with the opportunity to work [toward] your true potential and fear begins to creep up and hold you back, I want each of you to know in your hearts that you are worth it, your future is worth it, and the only person that can hold you back from the person you want to be is yourself."

Among the eighth-grade graduates, Kaeli Jo Pathil earned the salutatorian award with Latisha De Jesus

earning the title as the eighth-grade class valedictorian.

Among high school graduates from the class of 2021, Katherine Avendaño-Woodruff earned the salutatorian award and Victoria Nicole Santos earned the title as the school's valedictorian.

In both Santos' and Avendaño-Woodruff's speeches, they highlighted the importance of all the best memories that were made despite the stress and challenges the pandemic and school year presented them. Santos said, "Life is full of chaos and despite all the bad things, there are moments where life is just so good that you don't want anything to change, so soak it all in."

Similarly in Avendaño-Woodruff's speech, she said, "Trust your heart more than your head sometimes. ...Letting your heart decide some things for you can paint your years just a little bit of a brighter shade of gold. In a few years, you won't remember the assignments and projects. You'll remember the time you spent with the people you love. ... It was my head that decided to leave this school four years ago, but it was my heart that brought me back and quite honestly that was the best decision I ever made."

The following awards were given during the MCS 12th-grade ceremony.

- Valedictorian- Victoria Nicole Santos
- Salutatorian - Katherine Avendaño-Woodruff
- 1st Honor- Connie Lao Zhu
- 2nd Honor- Brandee Concepcion Hunter
- 3rd Honor- Mikee Mame N. Mendoza
- 4th Honor- Skyler Poon
- 5th Honor- Trinity Ann Camacho Cruz
- 6th Honor- Vince Philip D. Salvador
- 7th Honor- Brain Youn
- 8th Honor- Carmille Jade Agulto



Mount Carmel School's kindergarten graduates participated during Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero's closing remarks during a traditional commencement ceremony at the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

MCS1

Perez

- 9th Honor- Christian Dean Palattao
- 10th Honor- Xavier P. Gatmaitan

12th Grade Special Awards

- Bishop Christian Service Award- James Patrick L. San Nicolas
- President's Award- Brandee Concepcion Hunter
- Governor's Leadership Award- Brandee Concepcion Hunter
- Lieutenant Governor's Leadership Award- Maria Ayuyu
- Most Outstanding Female Graduate- Victoria Nicole Santos

12th Grade Subject Awards

- English Language Award- Katherine Avendaño-Woodruff
- Science Award- Victoria Nicole Santos
- Mathematics Award- Victoria Nicole Santos

Social Science Award-

- Theology Award- Victoria Nicole Santos
- Music Award- Penelope Feliciano Sablan
- Art Award- Katherine Avendaño-Woodruff
- Foreign Language Award- Skyler Poon
- Computer Science Award- Victoria Nicole Santos
- Physical/Health Education Award
- Female- Puti'on Primitiva Palacios Camacho

- Male- James Patrick L. San Nicolas
- Speech Award- Victoria Nicole Santos
- Drama Award- Brandee Concepcion Hunter

8th Grade Special Awards

- Citizenship Award- Jay Francis Dominic O. Pineda
- Leadership Award- Kaeli Jo Pathil
- Principal's Award- Latisha Anne L. De Jesus

Delivering his final closing remarks as Mount Carmel School president, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero gave a heartfelt farewell using the childhood stories of Winnie-the-Pooh: "As Pooh Bear puts it, 'I always get to where I'm going by walking away from where I've been.' When we leave, you and I can take comfort knowing that our hundred-acre wood, our alma mater, will always be here and so long as it's here we must never forget where we came from, all that we learned here, everyone that has been here for us, and who we are deep down inside. Whether that be an optimistic Tigger, a pessimistic Eeyore, or an inquisitive Pooh Bear. Deep down inside we are all Knights and together we are Knight Strong. So as we say goodbye one last time, let us all remember this lesson from Pooh Bear, 'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.'" (PR)



ACHIEVE3000 CHALLENGE WINNER

After completing 20 Achieve3000 Literacy tests with a passing rate of over 75%, Mount Carmel School student Angelo Li, fourth from left, won the CNMI Achieve3000 Challenge. Mount Carmel School thanks the CNMI Public School System for making the challenge accessible for all students in the CNMI. Others in the photo are, from left, PSS Curriculum and Instruction administrative officer Patricia Aguon-Cruz, statistical literacy analyst Giselle Butalid, MCS parent Angel Li, and MCS acting president Frances Taimanao.

MCS

MHS employees complete training on ‘allyship,’ inclusion



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School staff and educators undergo a five-hour professional development last June 16 that focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in schools, especially for the LGBTQIA+ youth.

Sixty Marianas High School staff and educators completed a five-hour professional development last June 16 that focused on promoting diversity and inclusion in schools, especially for the LGBTQIA+ youth.

Conducted by Pride Marianas Youth and the Public School System's Mental Health Team,

the training was called "Inclusion: How Allies Can Make A Difference For LGBTQIA+ Inclusion On Campus And In The Workplace."

Training participants explored the definition of diversity and inclusion; discussed privilege, stereotypes, bias, prejudice, and discrimination; and learned strategies

to create braver, safer and more inclusive spaces.

Discussions included eye-opening statistics of CNMI youth according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, which is conducted every two years by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and PSS.

LGBTQIA+ youth report

higher incidences of mental health vulnerabilities, higher rates of bullying, assault, and dating violence, feeling unsafe in school, and missing school because of not feeling safe. One such youth recently said, "We need to have a strong enough influence to change the minds of the

people who have not accepted them as the 'norm.' We started by having Pride Month to give them the voice they need to be heard, but we need to get to a point where we don't need just a month for them to stand proud and be themselves. We need to change the tides so that every day is a day our

LGBTQIA+ community is accepted and loved just for being themselves."

The training participants were given "safe space" posters for classrooms and were invited to attend the remaining Pride Month activities, celebrating this year's theme "Change the Tide, Show Your Pride." (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

4.5-magnitude earthquake in Guam

At 6:45pm on June 19, 2021, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 129 kilometers south-southwest of Merizo Village, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories are issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

5.4-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 11:44am on June 21, 2021, a report of a 5.4-magnitude earthquake occurred at 8.874°N 145.465°E of Pagan region in the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently there are no tsunami warnings, or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-105
 SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF NINETY (90) DELL LATITUDE 7520 LAPTOP" "(B) PURCHASE OF EIGHTY-THREE (83) DELL THUNDERBOLT DOCK WD19TBS" "(C) PURCHASE OF NINETY-FOUR (94) WIRELESS COMBO MOUSE AND KEYBOARD KM5221W" FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
 SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-107
 SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"(A) PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (366) DELL 27" MONITOR S2721HS" "(B) PURCHASE OF THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-SIX (366) DISPLAY PORT CABLE" "(C) PURCHASE OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY (UPS)" FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

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****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
 SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF/ITS-106
 SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-ONE (231) DELL OPTIPLEX 7090 DESKTOP" FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
 SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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 Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
 E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@cptiam.com
 Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will be a Board Committee Meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

AGENDA

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (May 25, 2021)
- II. Public Comments
- III. Old Business: None.
- IV. New Business:
 1. Draft Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
- V. Executive Session (if needed)
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

We will stream these meetings live on Facebook. Be sure to like the "Commonwealth Ports Authority" Facebook page to view the live coverage. Persons are welcome to submit written or oral testimony on the agenda items.

Ramon A. Tebuteb
Financial Affairs Chair

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Romando D. Lagrio) FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION
 Petitioner) NO. 21-0156
 Vs.) SUMMONS FOR
) PUBLICATION
 Marietta G. Lagrio)
 Respondent,)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDED: Marietta G. Lagrio

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 505011 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 26th day of April, 2021.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

INVITATION TO BID
MVA-ITB-21-2029
Acquisition of Riding Mower for MVA Tinian and MVA Rota

Submission/Closing Date: **July 22, 2021** Time: **2:00 p.m.**

Submit sealed proposals to:

Marianas Visitors Authority
 Attn: Procurement Office
 San Jose Professional Building
 Beach Rd., San Jose
 P.O. Box 500861
 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested firms may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **June 16, 2021** at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Bids submitted from firms outside the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before **July 22, 2021** and must be received by MVA within seven (7) working days of that date. Bidders from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer, Ms. Lenette Maratita in writing of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Bid Documents. This notice of intent to bid may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 2:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time (ChST) on **July 08, 2021** and must reference **"MVA-ITB-21-2029"** on the subject line.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
 Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
 Managing Director, MVA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
RFP NO.: DPW21-RFP-027
 SUBMISSION DATE: July 23, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Engineering and Design Related Services for Route 103 Road Improvements, Rota"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **July 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 16, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho**, Director Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
 SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
 Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Realism plus?

President Joe Biden and Russian President Vladimir Putin have had their much anticipated summit meeting in Switzerland. Now the question is: Will it improve anything?

Will Putin cease meddling in other countries, including our own?

Will he cease persecuting dissidents and lovers of freedom in Russia?

Will it lead to better U.S.-Russian relations?

Biden's own answer was: "We'll see."

That's not encouraging, for there is little ground for optimism.

So, the question then becomes: What will Biden do when what we see is not a change but more of the same?

No president would show all his cards in a situation like our current one with Russia.

And it is better that neither president saber-rattled in the meeting.

But it is hard to avoid the sinking feeling that the answer may be: The U.S. president will not do much at all about V. Putin.

There are limits, of course, to what any U.S. president can do about any tyrant in any foreign land.

But Putin could not be blamed for assuming there will be no real test of his limits.

Biden's argument for chastising and containing Putin might be called realism, plus.

He knows we cannot dictate terms to Putin.

He also knows we cannot trust him.

He knows Russia is a brutal autocracy, of the kind he has vowed to oppose.

But Biden's basic argument is that world opinion and economic self-interest will bring Putin around.

That is, it is in Putin's interest to seek the approval of civilized nations and not to be seen as a rogue autocrat leading a rogue state.

It is in his interest to accept international norms.

If he wants expanded U.S. trade and trade with the NATO countries, he will clean up his act.

If he wants U.S. business investment, he will cease kidnapping and jailing U.S. businessmen, like Michael Calvey.

In short, the new realism assumes Putin is a rational actor.

Call it realism, plus hope.

But why would Putin be a more rational actor after the summit than in the years before?

All these reasoning calculations could have been made by him prior to the summit—for many years prior.

Why would he start caring that the world thinks him a thug, now?

It was Biden, after all, who called Mr. Putin "a killer."

He was right.

Killers usually do not seek the approval of rule followers.

So there is no reason to believe that Putin has been in any way chastened by this meeting.

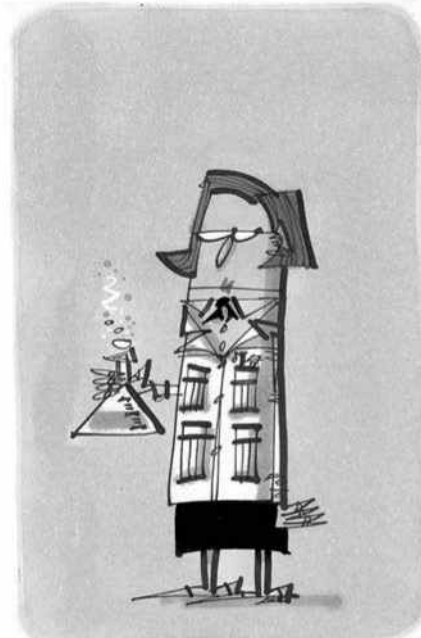
Moreover, Biden's promise that if Putin persists in his Putin ways, "we will respond," probably does not change much, either.

And restoring full diplomatic relations, now promised, is probably not the right signal to send.

See **REALISM** on Next Page

PICK THE RIGHT PERSON TO ASK IF THE PANDEMIC'S OVER:

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IMMUNOLOGIST



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL



POLITICIAN

Why we should let children go maskless outdoors this summer

By MAYSSA ABUALI and AMY BECK
LOS ANGELES TIMES

We are living in a modern dystopia when, in the name of science, adults enjoy life unmasked while young children are masked; adults freely go to restaurants and gyms while children have attended school mainly by remote learning. The U.S. pandemic policies have firmly placed us in this position.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released updated guidance for youth camps in late May that used vague wording that could be read as recommending continued outdoor masking of children. "People who are not fully vaccinated," it said, "are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated." Most group camp activities will require "sustained close contact."

Since the CDC has yet to specifically address masking of children in other settings, gaps in the guidance have led to confusion. Some are using the camp guidance to extrapolate to other settings. As of now, the CDC recommends that unvaccinated people should wear masks anywhere they will be around other people.

As pediatricians, the two questions we must ask are "what is the scientific evidence to support the outdoor masking recommendation for children?" and "how will the endpoint for the masking of American children be determined?"

To answer the first question, the risk of outdoor transmission to and from children must be assessed. Many studies have shown that few infections are transmitted outdoors, regardless of age. A conservative estimate published in February in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases* found that the odds of indoor transmission are 18.7 times higher than outdoors.

However, according to current scientific evidence, masks are simply not necessary in outdoor settings. As with many things COVID-related, there is no one definitive study on pediatric outdoor masking. Our opinion is based on the fact that many studies conclude that outdoor transmission is highly unlikely and that children are less likely to transmit the virus than adults.

Coupled with the low rates of community transmission, it no longer makes sense to require children to be masked outdoors, despite being unvaccinated.

Children are regarded as vectors —people who harbor infectious diseases and infect others —for some respiratory and gastrointestinal viruses. But many studies examining the ability of children to spread COVID-19 in household and daycare, school or camp settings have determined that they have not been the

primary drivers of transmission. Children are not the main COVID-19 vectors. Adults are.

Children are asking "when can we stop wearing masks?" but we cannot give them a definitive answer because there is not one in sight. An endpoint based on vaccination of children 2-11 years is not acceptable. We don't know when an approved vaccine will be available for this age group. The key to ending the pandemic is the vaccination of adults. For instance, Israeli COVID-19 rates plummeted after those 16 years old and above were vaccinated.

The United States is an outlier in the international community regarding masking of children. Recent guidance from the CDC advises keeping children as young as 2 masked when they are outdoors, while the World Health Organization recommends not masking children age 5 and under. England has never recommended masking for children younger than 11 and, based on low community transmission, no longer requires secondary students to wear masks at school.

The U.S. should develop metrics that allow our children to go maskless indoors when community rates are low. Influenza can lead to severe illness and hospitalizations in children ages 2 to 11, and the mortality rates in children for influenza and COVID are similar, yet mask mandates surely won't be imposed every influenza season.

Top public health officials must establish an approach to masking based on the science and pair it with strong messaging that clearly relays children can safely attend school, summer camps and recreational programs —and neither parents nor youngsters need to worry about whether they should be wearing a mask outdoors.

The prolonged school closures of the last year have led to loss of learning milestones, along with a rise in obesity and declining mental health for children and parents. In order to make informed decisions, parents, teachers and pediatricians need evidence-based risk assessments that do not inflate risk of infection, transmission or severity of COVID in children.

It is the responsibility of the CDC to counter fear about COVID with a data-driven approach. Making children wear masks outdoors during physical activity is uncomfortable and may keep them from being physically active, particularly during hot summer months. It is also unnecessary.

Dr. Mayssa Abuali is a pediatric infectious diseases specialist at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. Dr. Amy Beck is an associate professor of pediatrics at UC San Francisco. Also contributing to this article are Dr. Neeti Doshi, assistant professor of pediatrics at UCSF; Dr. Roshni Mathew, clinical associate professor of pediatric infectious disease at Stanford University; and Dr. Shawn Ralston, editor in chief of Hospital Pediatrics.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Revocable living trusts: 5 common mistakes

If you've been reading these columns for a while, then you know that a revocable living trust is generally a better tool than a last will and testament for transferring property to your loved one's when you pass away. For example, property held in a trust does not need to go through probate (a court-supervised process for identifying assets, paying debts, and then distributing what remains to your heirs). By contrast, property passed through a will needs to go through probate. And that can take a year or more to finish—and involve attorney fees. But while revocable trusts can be a powerful tool, they are not error-proof. Below are five mistakes to avoid.

The first, and most common, mistake people make is to leave assets out of their trust. For example, if you own land and you want the land to transfer according to your trust agreement, then you need to execute a deed from you to the trust saying that the trust now owns the property. And the same, for instance, if you own jewelry that you want to put into the trust. You'll need to sign a bill of sale from you to the trust documenting that the trust owns the jewelry.

Why is forgetting to transfer ownership a problem? Because assets that are not formally transferred into the trust are not part of the trust. So they'll need to go through probate. And at the end of that process, the property might not go where you expect because the rules for transferring property in a probate may not match the wishes that you wrote in your trust agreement.

But not to worry: To make sure that the property gets to the

right price, it's common for a person with a trust to also have a short will known as a pour-over will. This type of will basically says that any property left in your personal name when you die will transfer to your trust following probate. So, even if you miss some property, it will eventually find its way into your trust.

A second mistake is forgetting to choose a successor trustee—the person who will manage the trust after you pass away or become disabled. When the position is left vacant, it's usually because a person figures that nothing will happen to them in the near term, so they procrastinate. But if the trustee post remains vacant when the anointed time comes, expect headaches for your loved ones as they navigate that decision for you.

A close cousin of not picking a successor is picking that person poorly. A common reason for that is to choose someone just because they are your friend or the oldest child. That kind of relationship helps but it's just one piece of the decision-making calculus. More important is that the person is smart and reliable. The last thing you want is a successor trust who ruins your well-laid plans because they didn't or couldn't follow your instructions.

The next mistake is to believe that a revocable living trust is the only estate-planning document that you need. It's not. Along with a revocable living trust, you'll want a variety of documents addressing what happens if you become incapacitated. For example, who will control your finances? Who will make medical decisions for you? And what do you want to happen if you are

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

near death at the hospital?

The final mistake for today is to set up your trust and then forget to review it again. The reality is life is always changing in big ways and little. People die. Relationships form and fade. Property is bought and sold. And on and on. Sometimes this constant flow of change will warrant revisions to your trust agreement or other estate-planning documents. Other times nothing needs to change. But you'll want to double check your estate-planning documents every year or so to confirm that your plan still makes sense.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Celebrate Juneteenth. But please, let's not turn it into a consumer holiday

The first time I heard about Juneteenth, I was in college. Shameful, I know.

Maybe it was the mostly white schools I attended, where lessons on Black history started with slave ships, skipped a few centuries and ended with the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Or maybe—and this seems most likely, based on an informal poll of friends and family—it's because it wasn't really celebrated in northeast Ohio.

It was my professor of Black history who introduced me to Juneteenth. Appalled that most of her Black students knew nothing of the holiday, she decided to hold a mock celebration in early June, a week or so before most of us graduated.

She brought in red food and drinks to share, symbolizing the blood of our ancestors. The strawberry soda, the red beans and red velvet cake.

We talked about what it must have felt like for the enslaved Black people of Galveston, Texas, to learn from Union soldiers on June 19, 1865, that they were free—months after the Emancipation Proclamation. We laughed and we danced. And we pondered our collective liberation.

Since then, Juneteenth has always felt like it was ours—a holiday for Black people to celebrate the resiliency of Black people. One of the last corners of Black life untouched by mass consum-

erism and cultural appropriation and erasure.

Now, though, Juneteenth is open to all Americans, and that has me worried.

On Thursday, during a crowded White House ceremony, President Joe Biden signed into law a bill that makes June 19 a federal holiday—the first since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created in 1983.

I get the fanfare. Black activists have been lobbying Congress for such recognition for decades.

As Vice President Kamala Harris said during the ceremony, having Juneteenth as a federal holiday is important because it presents an opportunity for Americans to “stop and take stock” of our history, and hopefully to learn from it.

Biden offered similar sentiments, adding that “great nations don't ignore the most painful moments” of the past, “they embrace them.”

It's the embracing that worries me.

America has a way of squeezing the meaning out of holidays until we all forget why they were created in the first place. It corporatizes holidays with insipid slogans, commemorative products and unrelated sales events.

Think Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Christmas. The last thing Juneteenth needs is similar commercialization.

We don't need McDonald's serving strawberry milkshakes or Sonic Drive-In serving strawberry freezes in collector's edition Juneteenth cups.

We don't need Macy's one-day sales on refrigerators and mattresses. Or discounts on Toyota sedans and Ford pickup trucks. I can hear the commercials now: “Deals so good, you'll think you're getting away free!”

We definitely don't need Applebee's or the Cheesecake Factory offering dinner specials of red beans and rice, red-sauce barbecue and red velvet cake for dessert.

We don't need brands capitalizing on Juneteenth hashtags on social media, vowing to donate a portion of any sales on June 19 to this charity or that charity in support of Black lives. But I'm not optimistic.

So far, most companies have shown some level of restraint for Juneteenth. Apple, Verizon, Peloton, Nike and Zillow are giving their employees the day off, for instance. Other companies are treating it as a day of service, urging employees to volunteer or engage some form of activism.

But then there's Amazon. Along with Procter & Gamble and Crown Royal, the corporate behemoth is sponsoring the inaugural Juneteenth Unityfest.

The series of musical performances and speeches from “civic leaders and influencers” will be livestreamed Saturday. Organizers note that it will be “a national platform for a coalition of charitable and grassroots organizations to gain much deserved

By **ERIKA D. SMITH**

Los Angeles Times



Erika D. Smith is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

attention and support for their work in advancing national unity.” Whatever.

Meanwhile, General Motors, Lyft, Forbes, DoorDash, Carhartt and the Obama Foundation are among the sponsors of the Juneteenth Foundation Freedom Festival. This two-day series of “reflection panels” and receptions with “members of Congress, celebrities, CEOs and community leaders” will end Saturday night with a Freedom Concert.

And so it begins. I doubt this is where it ends.

As America becomes more diverse in the coming decades, the temptation will increase for corporations do more on Juneteenth—as a way not only to make money, but to build cachet for their brands.

We won't talk about how many companies continue to underpay and undervalue their Black employees.

Equity? They're all about it. Black lives? Of course, they matter. Happy Juneteenth!

For parallels, all one has to do is look at the evolution of Pride. What began as a riot waged by a bunch of transgender women fed up with New York City police harassing them has become, in most cities, a massive party. Parades are now dominated by rainbow-drenched floats built by deep-pocketed companies, such as Twitter and Facebook.

How long before we see Juneteenth parades—now mostly small, community-based affairs—become bigger, perhaps with corporate sponsorships? Probably not long enough.

There's a fine line between celebration and appropriation. In the end, I suspect it will be up to Black people to hold on to the true meaning of Juneteenth, so its power isn't commoditized, diluted and sold off, and its history isn't lost, misconstrued and ultimately forgotten.

I've only celebrated Juneteenth a handful of times since college. But I've come to think of the holiday almost like a family reunion. I'll always have a standing invitation—one that I plan to use this year.

“We have come far and we have far to go,” Harris said Thursday. “But today is a day of celebration. It is not only a day of pride. It is also a day for us to reaffirm and rededicate ourselves to action. And with that, I say, happy Juneteenth.”

REALISM

From Page 8

Realism really means that the life of one man—like dissident Alexei Navalny, who is now being slowly killed in a gulag—is not sufficient cause for a new cold war.

But what if the cold war is already on?

And what if Putin did not get, and does not plan on receiving and reading, the West's memo about reason and reputation and good opinion?






The good opinion of the West, and cordiality with the United States, did not stop the Putin regime from poisoning dissidents, from jailing them or, yes, from killing them.

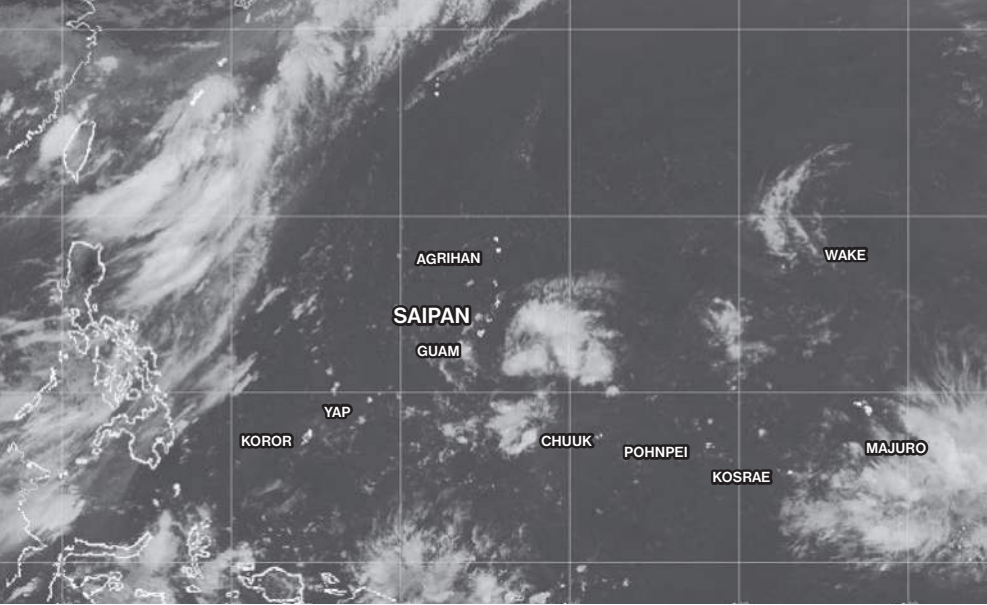
So, maybe the way to get the dictator's attention, and to drive home the larger point about democracies having as much guts and staying power as autocracies, is to say: The consequences are now. We are not giving you another chance. Free Navalny and free Calvey now. And then we will trade robustly with you and send a new U.S. ambassador.

Maybe the true realism is standing for American values as well as interests.

Maybe playing nice with a killer and warning that one day there will be consequences isn't realistic at all.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	79°	86°	79°	86°	79°	86°	79°	86°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:33 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Activity has erroded ahead of the developing tropical system. Trimmed scattered showers until later this afternoon.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents with- in the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run nec- essary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulner- able people at home as much as possible. When return- ing home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the com- munity at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are avail- able Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the CO- VID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These num- bers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323- 6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800- 985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit [https:// www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html)

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Face- book, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:02 AM	4:10 PM
Wednesday	-	3:53 AM	5:16 PM
Thursday	-	4:50 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	-	5:52 AM	7:28 PM
Saturday	-	6:56 AM	8:29 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	57° / 46°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 74°	
London	Showers	70° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
New York	Sunny	82° / 64°	
Osaka	Showers	81° / 73°	
Paris	Rain	73° / 57°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	81° / 72°	
Rome	Windy	91° / 72°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 70°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 52°	
Seoul	Sunny	84° / 70°	
Tokyo	Showers	79° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	83° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:27 AM	High Tide	2.23	
11:43 AM	Low Tide	-0.00	
6:37 PM	High Tide	1.98	
11:41 PM	Low Tide	1.30	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021								
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,		UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam		UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5		UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,		UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>								

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Republicans point to inflation in bid to retake Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—Gas prices have whizzed past \$3 per gallon in much of the nation. The cost of used cars and new furniture, airline tickets, department store blouses, ground beef and a Chipotle burrito are on the rise, too.

Many economists say the price increases are fueled by the aftereffects of a global pandemic and probably won't last. But Republicans are hoping to storm into next year's midterm elections arguing that steep government spending under President Joe Biden and a Democratic-controlled Congress has triggered inflation that will ultimately hurt everyday Americans.

The economic reality is more complicated. Still, with Republicans only needing to pick up a handful of seats to regain the House and Senate, the party increasingly sees the prospect of sustained higher prices as a way to connect policies made in Washington with the experiences of voters whose pocketbooks may be feeling the strain.

Rep. Jim Banks, R-Ind., said his constituents have "seen the higher prices on gas in particular, but also groceries and the cost to keep their businesses running." Such voters, he said, "know, intuitively, that this is due to Democrats' economic agenda and big spending plans."

Consumer prices rose 5% over the previous 12 months, the largest one-year increase



AP
Gas price is seen at a Mobil gas station in Vernon Hills, Ill., Friday, June 11, 2021.

Factories ramping up production are already easing some pricing pressure. Lumber prices that skyrocketed recently are falling again. That eventually could affect everything from home-building in white-hot real estate markets around the country to the cost of a desk at Office Depot.

Republicans have nonetheless intensified warnings that inflation is surging and they blame the \$1.9 trillion stimulus that congressional Democrats pushed through Congress. Charges that profligate federal spending is overheating the economy are growing louder from the right as lawmakers hammer out a sweeping infrastructure package.

Inflation jitters could end up resonating more with voters than many cultural issues Republicans raised in the opening months of Biden's term. The president's approval ratings have remained strong despite complaints by many Republicans about "cancel culture."

Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who is leading the GOP effort to retake the Senate, has chided Biden to "realize that reckless spending has consequences, inflation is real and America's debt crisis is growing."

since 2008. Excluding more volatile items such as food and energy, prices were up 3.8% over the past year—the biggest 12-month jump since 1992.

Those leaps were driven by comparisons to the pandemic-hampered 2020 economy, but nonetheless show prices climbing sharply, with the cost of used cars rising 7.3% in May and food costs increasing nearly half a percentage point over the same period. Gas prices have risen from a na-

tionwide average of \$2.48 to \$3.13 per gallon under Biden, the first time since 2014 that it has topped the \$3 threshold.

Former Federal Reserve economist Claudia Sahm said this year's inflation rates are likely to remain far higher than usual, but that's chiefly due to the the pandemic pushing inflation uncommonly low last year. There's also a boom in consumer spending due to

pent-up demand as the virus recedes and the lingering effects of disruptions to global supply chain, she said.

An example Sahm pointed to is a virus-triggered shortage of semiconductors which has slowed production of new cars and helped used vehicle prices spike, at least temporarily.

"It is not a structural change in the economy, it is a few months," Sahm said.

Others are playing down the risk of price gains being sustained, because many were caused by supply bottlenecks set to ease as the post-pandemic economic recovery takes hold.

"We're still skeptical that this signals the start of a sustained pickup in inflation, either in the U.S. or elsewhere," said Ben May director of global macro research for Oxford Economics.

Iran's sole nuclear power plant undergoes emergency shutdown

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's sole nuclear power plant has undergone an unexplained temporary emergency shutdown, state TV reported on Sunday.

An official from the state electric company Tavanir, Gholamali Rakhshanimehr, said on a talk show that the Bushehr plant shutdown began on Saturday and would last "for three to four days."

Without elaborating, he said that power outages could result. This is the first time Iran has reported an emergency shutdown of the plant in the southern port city of Bushehr. It went online in 2011 with help from Russia. Iran is required to send spent fuel rods from the reactor back to Russia as a nuclear nonproliferation measure.

Earlier on Sunday, Tavanir released a statement saying that the nuclear plant was being repaired, without offering further details. It said the repair work would take until Friday.

In March, nuclear offi-

cial Mahmoud Jafari said the plant could stop working since Iran cannot procure parts and equipment for it from Russia due to banking sanctions imposed by the U.S. in 2018.

Bushehr is fueled by uranium produced in Russia, not Iran, and is monitored by the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA acknowledged being aware of reports about the plant, but declined to comment.

Construction on Bushehr, on the coast of the northern reaches of the Persian Gulf, began under Iran's shah in the mid-1970s. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the plant was repeatedly targeted in the Iran-Iraq war. Russia later completed construction of the facility.

The plant, which sits near active fault lines and was built to withstand powerful quakes, has been periodically shaken by tremors. There have been no significant earthquakes reported in the area in recent days.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Italy to require 5-day quarantines for travelers from UK

ROME (AP)—Starting Monday, Italy is requiring people who arrive from Britain to do five days of quarantine as well as take a COVID-19 swab test. Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza on Friday said he signed that order as concern builds about a soaring increase of coronavirus cases in Britain involving the delta variant. That variant is responsible for over 90% of the new infections in the U.K. So far, it has been detected in relatively few infections in Italy. The new requirement could have consequences for the Euro 2020 soccer competition, since England's national team is likely to play in Rome if it advances from the group stage. Under the ordinance, Italy will allow people to enter from the United States, Canada and Japan if they meet the prerequisites for the European Union Green Certificate. Those requirements include full vaccination, documented

recovery from COVID-19 or a negative swab test performed within 48 hours of arrival in Italy. U.S. travelers who flew into Italy on COVID-tested flights, which require a negative swab test within 48 hours before boarding, could already enter Italy as tourists. Alitalia and at least two U.S. airlines have been operating those flights, which also require a swab test for passengers when they disembark in Italy.

UK retail sales dip as lockdown easing allows socializing

LONDON (AP)—Retail sales in Britain slipped back in May as people ventured out to spend money at restaurants and pubs following the easing of coronavirus lockdown restrictions, official figures showed Friday. The Office of National Statistics found that retail sales during May were 1.4% lower than the previous month, when they surged 9.2% after shops selling non-essential items were allowed to reopen after a months-long

shutdown. It said the biggest downward contribution came from food sales, which fell 5.7% as restrictions on the hospitality sector were eased further to allow people to meet up inside. Pubs and restaurants previously were allowed to serve customers only outdoors. Analysts said the monthly decline does not represent the start of a slowdown in the British recovery from its biggest economic contraction in more than 300 years. In 2020, the British economy contracted around 10% as a result of pandemic restrictions. "Retail sales, unlike some other parts of the economy, have been pretty quick to get back to where they were before the virus," said James Smith, an economist at financial firm ING. The statistics agency said retail sales were 9.1% higher than in February 2020 before the pandemic hit the economy.

Egypt: Suez Canal ship case adjourned for settlement talks

CAIRO (AP)—An Egyptian

court on Sunday adjourned until July 4 the case of a hulking cargo vessel that blocked the Suez Canal for nearly a week earlier this year. The decision came after both legal teams of the Suez Canal and the vessel's owners asked for more time for negotiations that aim at resolving their financial dispute. The dispute centers on the compensation amount the Suez Canal Authority is claiming for the salvage of the vessel Ever Given, which ran aground in March, blocking the crucial waterway for six days. The money would cover the salvage operation, costs of stalled canal traffic, and lost transit fees for the week the Ever Given blocked the canal. At first, the Suez Canal Authority demanded \$916 million in compensation, which was later lowered to \$550 million. Since it was freed, the Panama-flagged vessel, which carries cargo between Asia and Europe, has been ordered by authorities to remain in a holding lake mid-canal as its owner and the canal authority try to settle the compensation dispute.

Nation

8 kids in youth van among the 13 lives lost to Claudette



AP
This photo provided by Alicia Jossey shows debris covering the street in East Brewton, Ala., on Saturday, June 19, 2021.

ATLANTA (AP)—Eight children in a van from a youth home for abused or neglected children were killed in a fiery multi-vehicle crash on a wet interstate that also killed a man and his baby in another vehicle, the most devastating blow from a tropical depression that claimed 13 lives in Alabama as it caused flash floods and spurred tornadoes that destroyed dozens of homes.

The crash happened Saturday about 35 miles (55 kilometers) south of Montgomery on Interstate 65 after vehicles likely hydroplaned on wet

roads, said Butler County Coroner Wayne Garlock.

The van, containing children ages 4 to 17, belonged to the Tallapoosa County Girls Ranch, a youth home operated by the Alabama Sheriffs Association. Michael Smith, the youth ranches CEO, said the van was heading back to the ranch near Camp Hill, northeast of Montgomery, after a week at the beach in Gulf Shores. It caught fire after the wreck and Candice Gulley, the ranch director, was the van's only survivor—pulled from the flames by a bystander.

Gulley remained hospitalized Sunday in Montgomery in serious but stable condition. "She's going to survive her physical injuries," Smith said. Two of the dead in the van were Gulley's children, ages 4 and 16. Four others were ranch residents and two were guests, Smith said.

"This is the worst tragedy I've been a part of in my life," said Smith, who drove Sunday to the ranch to talk to the remaining residents, who had returned from Gulf Shores in a separate van and did not see the wreck.

"Words cannot explain what

I saw," Smith said of the accident site, which he visited Saturday. "We love these girls like they're our own children."

The crash also claimed the lives of two other people who were in a separate vehicle. Garlock identified them as 29-year-old Cody Fox and his 9-month-old daughter, Ariana, both of Marion County, Tennessee.

"He was a great guy and we're really gonna miss him," said Aaron Sanders, who worked with Fox at the emergency management agency in Marion County. He said Fox also ran a hot tub business

with his father and doted on his daughter. "He just loved her to death and that was his life."

Multiple people were also injured.

The National Transportation Safety Board tweeted that it was sending 10 investigators to the area Sunday to investigate the crash, photos of which showed at least four burned vehicles, including two large trucks. It said the inquiry would focus on vehicle technologies such as forward collision warning systems,

fuel tank integrity and occupant survivability.

Meanwhile, a 24-year-old man and a 3-year-old boy were also killed Saturday when a tree fell on their house just outside the Tuscaloosa city limits, said Capt. Jack Kennedy of the Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit. Makayla Ross, a 23-year-old Fort Payne woman, died Saturday after her car ran off the road into a swollen creek, DeKalb County Deputy Coroner Chris Thacker told WHNT-TV.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 killed and 5 wounded in shooting in Oakland; motive sought

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—A 22-year-old man was killed and five others were wounded in a shooting in Oakland near the city's Juneteenth celebration, though it wasn't known whether the violence was connected with the event, police said. The unidentified man was pronounced dead at a hospital after gunfire erupted Saturday evening near Lake Merritt, said Oakland Police Department Officer Johnna Watson. The other five victims, males ages 16 to 27, and a woman in her 20s, were hospitalized in stable condition, she said Saturday night. Investigators said they were trying to determine a motive for the shooting and identify suspects. Police said two men running from the scene with guns were arrested, but it was unclear if they were responsible for the shooting, the Bay Area News Group reported. The shooting occurred shortly before 6:30 p.m. about a mile (1.6 kilometers) north of the Lake Merritt Amphitheater, where hundreds of people had gathered throughout the day to commemorate June 19, 1865.

Body of fourth tuber, age 7, found in North Carolina river

EDEN, N.C. (AP)—The body of a fourth tuber has been found in a North Carolina river following a deadly accident in which a family on a recreational float went over a dam, local officials said Sunday. The Rockingham County Sheriff's Office confirmed in a news release that Isiah Crawford, 7, was the person who was found in the Dan River. Another tuber, Teresa Villano, 35, is still missing. The search for her continued on Sunday, including near the Virginia state line, officials said.

The sheriff's office said the child's body was found after authorities received a 911 call about 10 a.m. Someone had reported seeing a body in the river near a boat landing in the town of Eden. The accident occurred Wednesday night when a group of nine people floated down the river on inflatable tubes and went over a dam. Four people were rescued Thursday, while three tubers' bodies were found that day.

Officials: Deadly Pride parade crash appears unintentional

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—A member of a men's chorus group unintentionally slammed into fellow chorists at the start of a Pride parade in South Florida, killing one member of the group and seriously injuring another, the group's director said Sunday, correcting initial speculation that it was a hate crime directed at the gay community. Wilton Manors Vice Mayor Paul Rolli and Fort Lauderdale Mayor Dean Trantalis said the early investigation shows it was an accident. The 77-year-old driver was taken into custody, but police said no charges have been filed and the investigation is ongoing. The elderly driver had ailments that prevented him from walking, according to a statement Sunday from Fort Lauderdale Police, who said he was cooperating with the investigation and there was no evidence drugs or alcohol was involved. "The early investigation now indicates it looks like it was a tragic accident, but nobody's saying finally what it is," Rolli told The Associated Press in a phone interview. The driver and the victims were a part of the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus family, a small 25-member group of mostly older men.

Witness tells of horror as truck rams into Arizona bike race

PHOENIX (AP)—Bicyclist Tony Quinones had only just shaken hands with a fellow cyclist and wished him good luck in this weekend's community race in an Arizona mountain town when a truck sped into a crowd of bike riders.

Suddenly, Quinones said in an interview Sunday, he was "watching bodies going on top of the hood, bodies going to the left, bodies going to the right" about six minutes after the race had started.

The sounds of breaking and smashing as the truck plowed through the cyclists on Saturday was quickly replaced by their groans of pain—including those of the cyclist Quinones had just met.

Authorities in the small city of Show Low said the unidentified 35-year-old male suspect fled the crash scene in

the pickup and was shot and wounded by officers a short time later.

Of the seven cyclists hospitalized, six were in critical condition, and one was in stable condition on Sunday, police said in a statement. The suspect, described as a local resident, was in stable condition, police said.

Quinones, 55, said the man he had met before the race was a fellow New Mexican and that blood was flowing from his head and his nose after the pickup hit him.

"He's got a compound fracture, and I'm just saying, 'Hey man keep breathing, keep breathing. Help's on its way. Hey man, you're going to be OK,'" Quinones said. "I mean, that's just insane. It's not just one. There's like six, seven, eight other guys like

who are all around doing the same thing."

Authorities were trying to determine why the man driving the truck rammed into the group of cyclists participating in the annual 58-mile (93-kilometer) Bike the Bluff race that drew hundreds of participants. He was shot by police nearby outside a hardware store in Show Low, which is about a three-hour drive northeast of Phoenix.

"We don't know the motivation," said Show Low city spokeswoman Grace Payne.

Quinones said some cyclists wondered at first whether the driver of the truck had fallen asleep at the wheel. But Quinones said he saw the man accelerate toward the cyclists.

"He went right at us," he said.

Witnesses said helmets, shoes and crumpled and bro-

ken bicycles were strewn across the street after the crash, and a tire was wedged into the grill of the truck that rammed the cyclists at about 7:25 a.m. in downtown Show Low.

"I just remember, you know, this is surreal," Quinones said. "I can't believe I just shook this guy's hand and we wished each other luck, and now I'm watching him with blood all over the place. And not a little blood. It wasn't trickling out. There's like a pool of blood."

The truck had damage to its top and sides and a bullet hole in a window.

"This has been a horrible event," police spokeswoman Kristine Sleighter said in a statement. "Our community is shocked at this incident and our hearts and prayers are with the injured and their families at this time."

Asia

‘US failed in Afghanistan’

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan’s former president said Sunday the United States came to his country to fight extremism and bring stability to his war-tortured nation and is leaving nearly 20 years later having failed at both.

In an interview with The Associated Press just weeks before the last U.S. and NATO troops leave Afghanistan, ending their ‘forever war,’ Hamid Karzai said extremism is at its ‘highest point’ and the departing troops are leaving behind a disaster.

“The international community came here 20 years ago with this clear objective of fighting extremism and bringing stability ... but extremism is at the highest point today. So they have failed,” he said.

Their legacy is a war-ravaged nation in “total disgrace and disaster.”

“We recognize as Afghans all our failures, but what about the bigger forces and powers who came here for exactly that purpose? Where are they leaving us now?” he asked and answered: “In total disgrace and disaster.”

Still, Karzai, who had a conflicted relationship with the United States during his 13-year rule, wanted the troops to leave, saying Afghans were united behind an overwhelm-



Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during an interview to the Associated Press in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, June 20, 2021.

ing desire for peace and needed now to take responsibility for their future.

“We will be better off without their military presence,” he said. “I think we should defend our own country and look after our own lives. ... Their presence (has given us) what we have now. ... We don’t want to continue with this misery and indignity that we are facing. It is better for Afghanistan that they leave.”

Karzai’s rule followed the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001 by a U.S.-led coalition that launched its invasion to hunt down and destroy the al-Qaida network and its leader, Osama bin Laden, blamed for the 9/11 attacks on America.

During Karzai’s rule, wom-

en re-emerged, girls again attended school, a vibrant, young civil society emerged, new high-rises went up in the capital Kabul and roads and infrastructure were built. But his rule was also characterized by allegations of widespread corruption, a flourishing drug trade and in the final years relentless quarrels with Washington that continue even until today.

“The (US/NATO military) campaign was not against extremism or terrorism, the campaign was more against Afghan villages and hopes; putting Afghan people in prisons, creating prisons in our own country ... and bombing all villages. That was very wrong.”

US sends Taiwan 2.5 million vaccine doses

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The U.S. sent 2.5 million doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Taiwan on Sunday, tripling an earlier pledge in a donation with both public health and geopolitical meaning.

The shipment arrived on a China Airlines cargo plane that had left Memphis the previous day. Health Minister Chen Shih-chung and Brent Christensen, the top U.S. official in Taiwan, were among those who welcomed the plane on the tarmac at the airport outside of the capital, Taipei.

Chen said that America was showing its friendship as Taiwan faces its most severe outbreak. “When I saw these vaccines coming down the plane, I was really touched,” he said over the noise inside a building where the boxes of vaccines, some with U.S. flags on them, had been brought on wheeled dollies.

Taiwan, which had been relatively unscathed by the virus, has been caught off guard by a surge in new cases since May and is now scrambling to get vaccines. The COVID-19 death toll on the island of 24 million people has jumped to 549, from only about a dozen

prior to the outbreak.

The U.S. donation also signals its support for Taiwan in the face of growing pressure from China, which claims the self-governing island off its east coast as its territory. The U.S. does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan under what is known as the one-China policy, but is legally bound by its own laws to ensure that Taiwan can defend itself.

“These vaccines are proof of America’s commitment to Taiwan,” said Christensen, the director of the American Institute in Taiwan, the de facto U.S. Embassy. “Taiwan is a family member to the world’s democratic countries.”

The U.S. promised 750,000 vaccine doses for Taiwan earlier this month, sending Sen. Tammy Duckworth and two of her Senate colleagues to the island aboard a military transport plane to make the announcement. Taiwan has ordered 5.05 million doses directly from Moderna but so far received only 390,000, including a second shipment that arrived Friday.

Taiwan’s President Tsai Ing-wen said the U.S. had decided to increase the donation

through efforts on both sides over the past two weeks.

In a Facebook post, Tsai joined the U.S. in drawing attention to their shared democratic systems. China, which has been ruled single-handedly by the Communist Party since 1949, says Taiwan must eventually come under its control and reserves the right to use force if necessary.

“Whether it is for regional peace and stability or the virus that is a common human adversary, we will continue to uphold common ideas and work together,” Tsai wrote in Chinese.

She has accused China of blocking Taiwan from getting the Pfizer vaccine through BioNTech, the German co-developer. Chinese officials have repeatedly denied the charge, and say China is willing to provide vaccines to Taiwan. Taiwanese law, however, bans the import of Chinese-made medicine.

The U.S. donation follows Japan’s shipment of 1.24 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine in early June. Taiwan has ordered 10 million doses from AstraZeneca but has yet to receive most of them.

World

18 dead in Mexico violence

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico (AP)—Fear has invaded the Mexican border city of Reynosa after gunmen in vehicles killed 14 people, including taxi drivers, workers and a nursing student, and security forces responded with operations that left four suspects dead.

While this city across the border from McAllen, Texas is used to cartel violence as a key trafficking point, the 14 victims in Saturday’s attacks appeared to be what Tamaulipas Gov. Francisco García Cabeza de Vaca called “innocent citizens” rather than members of

one gang killed by a rival.

Local businessman Misael Chavarria Garza said many businesses closed early Saturday amid the gunfire and people were very scared as helicopters flew overhead. On Sunday, he said “the people were quiet as if nothing had happened, but with a feeling of anger because now crime has happened to innocent people.”

“It’s not fair,” said taxi driver Rene Guevara, adding that among the dead were two of his fellow taxi drivers whom he defended and said were not involved in crime.

The attacks began in several neighborhoods in eastern Reynosa, according to the Tamaulipas state agency that coordinates security forces, and sparked a deployment of the military, National Guard and state police across the city. Images posted on social media showed bodies in the streets.

Authorities say they are investigating the attacks and haven’t provided a motive.

But the area’s criminal activity has long been dominated by the Gulf Cartel and there have been fractures within that group.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In God's Care **James Everett Phillips**

Loving known as “Jas”

Born to Life on June 29, 1949
Called to his eternal life by our dear Lord
on June 16, 2021

In his new life he now joins his

Wife: Bertha Selepeo Lifofoi Phillips

Parents: Richard Melvin Phillips
and Edna Price Phillips

Parents in law:
Alfonso Camacho Lifofoi
and Adela Selepeo Lifofoi

Brother: Ronald Phillips

Brothers and sisters in law:

Jose & Amalia Lifofoi
Jimmy Marquez
Donata L. Taitano
Guillermo Lifofoi
Maria L. Napo
Estevan and Ines L. Nogis

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his
Children:

Raisse Phillips Ward and Christopher Ward, Emilie Stewart Hartman and Jesse Hartman,
Christina Lifofoi Phillips, Angelina Lifofoi Phillips and Giovanni Mira,
James Arthur Lifofoi Phillips

Grandchildren:

Haley Ward, Aidan Ward, Trevor Ward, Charlie Hartman, Marlena Hartman, Benigno
James P. Sablan, Christiano North P. Sablan, Kylee Bertha P. Mira, Kianni Donata P. Mira,
Yadier Alfonso L. Phillips, Yasiel Jose L. Phillips

Brothers:

Robert and Ann Phillips, Kenneth and Rose Phillips

Brothers and sisters in law:

Rosalia L. Marquez, Herman Taitano, Victor and Julita Lifofoi,
Fermin and Rosita Lifofoi, Felicidad Lifofoi, Fred Napo

**James will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces,
nephews and godchildren.**

On Thursday, June 24, 2021 Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10am
at the Nuestra Senora Bithen Delos Remedios Church in Tanapag followed
by interment services at the Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at peaceful rest.

Un Dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Olomwaay and Thank you

Children and Family

Overdrive

Honda Civic dons a grown-up wardrobe, but still likes to boogie

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

How do you improve on a home run? Hit the next one into the upper deck.

The 2016 Honda Civic became the instant benchmark for the compact sedan segment. A clean sheet design from the ground up, its taut chassis was Nürburgring tested. It boasted best-in-class horsepower, fuel economy and rear seat room. And to make sure the world noticed, it drew styling cues right out of a DC Comic book with boomerang rear headlights, narrow greenhouse and more tattoos than Allen Iverson.

The new 2022 Civic (coming to a dealer near you this June) dials the wardrobe back to conservative Bruce Wayne from rad Batman suit. But on everything else it turns the dial up from 10 to 11.

After a 10th generation that shattered sales records, King Civic is poised to continue its reign at the top of the compact segment. Compacts are personal favorites because they are the LeBron James of automobiles—the best all-around players in the game. I've owned a VW Golf GTI, Dodge Neon, two Ford Focuses and a pair of Civics because they can do it all: dance through the twisties while sipping gas, seating four, looking sharp, and all while not breaking the bank.

Let's take the Civic's talents one at a time.

Dancing moves. I flogged the 2022 Civic through HUG—Hell, Unadilla and Gregory—the three burgs that border Michigan's most insane network of country roads. The Civic left begging me for more.

Throwing the Civic across a 90-degree right-hander onto

Doyle Road at Unadilla, the front-wheel driver is remarkably neutral—rotating easily like the rear-wheel-drive BMW 3-series I was chasing. That's right, a BMW 3.

While underpowered at 180 horsepower compared to the Bimmer's 248, they are both turbo-4s and the Honda is one sweet little drivetrain—its fuel-sipping, 36 mpg continuously variable transmission a universe away from the droning CVTs of yesteryear (the standard, 158 horse four-banger ain't bad either, but lacks the upper-trim turbo's low-end kick).

While I lost ground in the straightaways, the Honda could hold its own in the twisties, so intuitive is this chassis.

It's a good thing, too, because the Honda has some serious competition nipping at its heels. I'm thinking the dazzling-looking, ninja-quick Mazda 3 and Hyundai Elantra that offer luxury amenities at a mainstream price. Set a high bar and others will follow.

Speaking of luxe, my \$41,000 BMW sparring partner shot me a thumbs up as we exited Unadilla Raod—like two boxers after a good workout at the local gym. I didn't have the heart to tell him he was being chased by a \$25,000 Honda with more cargo space and 2.5 more inches of rear legroom.

Acres of room. Well, acres is an exaggeration, but the Civic's best-in-class legroom is more than a 2011 mid-size Accord sedan, for goodness sake. At 6'5" I was comfortably able to sit behind myself. Indeed, the Civic will surely be mistaken by some for an Accord. And not just its mature understated exterior.

The interior takes a page



HONDA/TNS

The 2022 Honda Civic Sedan is the first in a series of new 11th-generation Civic variants that will include Hatchback, and high-performance Si and Type-R models.

from the Accord's book with a simple horizontal dash design—placing the touchscreen high in the driver's-eye view. Honda excels at interior ergonomics, and the Civic layout is master class.

Looks sharp. Like Accord, the interior has upscale aspirations—think Lincoln Aviator—with a honeycomb character line that is not just distinctive but hides the HVAC vents. Like the Lincoln, the touchscreen shelf helped steady my thumb as I paged through the infotainment display.

The higher dash also benefited your giraffe-legged reviewer. My knees chafed on the old Civic's vertical dash buttresses. No issues with the 2022 design. Has Civic moved on from the cheap plastic buttons on the previous gen's steering wheel? You bet. I lament only that the old car's clever configurable console cupholders and storage has been sacrificed to the '22's more mature design themes. Storage still abounds (some-

thing luxe-class Mercs and Audis don't do well).

Though interior dimensions haven't changed, the greenhouse has.

Looking out over that the high touchscreen, I surveyed the landscape through a bigger windshield thanks to Honda moving the A-pillar backward to a more vertical position. Together with side mirrors mounted on the doors, visibility improves.

That field of view now takes in a lower, longer aluminum (a first for Civic) hood that tapers to a more modest fascia than the last model. I'm a big fan of my eighth-gen Civic Si's timeless thin grille and swept greenhouse. The new Civic should age well, too.

As will its price.

Won't break the bank. Despite the Civic's massive upgrades in interior tech (better cameras, all-digital displays, more air bags), the compact sedan's price doesn't budge. Credit some of this to its Made in America origins—the 11th-gen Civic will be screwed

together in nearby Canada (sedans) and Indiana (hatchbacks).

My \$24,000 Sport (Civic's most popular model, the kids love the blacked-out trim and big 18-inch wheels) and loaded, \$28,000 Touring testers are priced right on top of the outgoing car. That's in keeping with Civic's status as brand beacon that brings new customers to its product family. In the Age of Ute, the sedan maintains its price value over pricier SUVs.

Tight handling, bigger back seat, digital displays ... the gap between luxe and mainstream is narrowing. Is a compact Acura ILX a better car? Perhaps the biggest bonus is wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto available on the upper trim, EX and Touring models (EX and Sport, with a smaller 7-inch display, still require a cord to connect) just like the 90-grand BMW M4 I was tested recently.

Jump in and the car immediately recognized the phone in my pocket, turning the

touchscreen into a mirror image of my 'Droid. My texts, tunes—and destinations were all there.

All-around athlete, indeed.

My Hell trips are usually reserved for high-horsepower athletes. But like the Bimmer I was chasing, the standard Civic is in its element here. And it is just the appetizer.

With its toned bod, light weight—and 1.5-inch longer wheelbase than last model—the 11th generation Civic promises even more performance from its forthcoming Si and Type-R hellions.

They'll be swinging for the top deck.

NUTS & BOLTS

- Vehicle type: Front-engine, front-wheel-drive, five-passenger sedan
- Price: \$22,695, including \$995 destination fee (\$24,095 Sport and \$29,295 Touring as tested)
- Powerplant: 2.0-liter 4-cylinder; 1.5-liter turbo-4
- Power: 158 horsepower, 138 pound-feet of torque (2.0L); 180 horsepower, 177 pound-feet of torque (1.5L)
- Transmission: Automatic, continuously variable transmission (CVT)
- Performance: 0-60 mph (7.5 sec., Car and Driver); top speed, 126 mph
- Weight: 3,077 pounds (Touring as tested)
- Fuel economy: EPA, 31 mpg city/40 highway/35 combined (2.0L); 31 mpg city/38 highway/34 combined (1.5L)
- Report card
- Highs: Fun to drive hard; engaging, upscale interior
- Lows: Conservative exterior might be mistaken for an Accord
- Overall: 4 stars

MOTORMOUTH: Cleaning a steering wheel

Q: I hate sticky fingers—especially when my leather covered steering wheel becomes sticky. During the pandemic I discovered that disinfecting wipes did an excellent job of totally removing stickiness with no apparent residue left over. Unfortunately, I have developed an allergic reaction to the wipes—even when cleaning my steering wheel with rubber gloves on! Using soap and water leaves its own unpleasant sticky residue on the wheel. Any suggestions?

A: I suggest mixing a few drops of dishwashing detergent such as Dawn with a cup of water. Dip and then wring out a rag and gently dab or wipe the

sticky areas. I also like Lexol leather cleaner, but why buy a whole bottle? Allow the wheel to dry. Apply a leather conditioner and wipe off excess.

Q: I have a 2017 Honda Civic sport touring. The tire pressure light goes on every time I'm on the expressway. The mechanic can't find anything wrong. I even purchased new tires hoping this would fix the problem. It didn't. Is this just something I have to live with?

A: Your Honda has an indirect tire pressure warning system instead of pressure sensors inside the tires. As long as the rotational speed of each wheel is the same, you're good. But if one tire rotates faster (lower

pressure, thus smaller diameter), the warning light is triggered. Try recalibrating your TPMS system. The simple instructions are in your owner's manual.

Q: When I watch new car TV commercials, I have noticed they often have some number where the license plate would be. It is always painted the same color as the body and very difficult to even see. Having been a military intelligence officer (please no comments about that being an oxymoron) is there some hidden cryptic message being transmitted?

A: I would like to answer your question, but I would have to kill you. The car

would look weird without a license plate, but the ad obscures the characters so it does not distract from the beauty of the automobile. This answer is for your eyes only.

Q: I have wondered for years about the value of fuel injector cleaners that are sold to be added to the vehicle's fuel tank. I took my vehicle for service to a local mechanic and as a normal action they put a fuel injector cleaner in the gas tank during an oil change. I had always believed they were just a scam to induce consumers to spend more money. Are these products worthwhile, how often should they be

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



used and are there any that are particularly effective and some that are to be avoided?

A: I like to run some white vinegar through my coffee maker every three months or so. I also add a bottle of Techron to my gas tank every

quarter. I take great care not to confuse them with one another. I also use Top Tier gasolines to maintain cleanliness. For a list of Top Tier brands go to www.toptiergas.com/licensed-brands/. I won't attempt to list products to be avoided.

Life & Style

'The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard' hits top mark at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" struck the top box office target.

The Lionsgate's film starring Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson and Salma Hayek brought in \$11.6 million domestically to claim the No. 1

spot in its debut. The action-comedy—which appeared in 3,331 locations—is the follow up the 2017 breakout hit "The Hitman's Bodyguard."

The "Hitman" sequel notched "A Quiet Place Part II," which took hold of the second spot in its fourth week-

end of release. The Paramount horror-thriller, which stars Emily Blunt and was directed by John Krasinski, earned \$9.4 million. The film became the first of the pandemic era to reach \$100 million domestically.

This weekend, "Godzilla

vs. Kong" became the second movie of the pandemic to cross \$100 million. The film has garnered more \$442.5 mil-

lion worldwide.

Meanwhile, the Jon M. Chu-directed "In the Heights" continued to struggle. The

adaption of Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway musical dropped a few slots to sixth this weekend.



This image released by Lionsgate shows Ryan Reynolds, left, and Samuel L. Jackson in a scene from "The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard."

DAVID APPLEBY/LIONSGATE VIA AP

15 months later, Radio City reopens with Dave Chappelle

NEW YORK (AP)—Fifteen months after shuttering for the pandemic, New York's Radio City Music Hall reopened its doors Saturday for the Tribeca Festival premiere of a new Dave Chappelle documentary for a full-capacity, fully-vaccinated audience.

The debut of "Dave Chappelle: This Time This Place," which chronicles Chappelle's pandemic stand-up series held in rural Ohio cornfields, marked the first time the hallowed midtown hall was yet again packed since closing

in March 2020—a shutdown that put a year-plus's worth of concerts, including Radio City's famous Rockettes, on ice for easily the longest spell since the Art Deco venue first opened in 1932.

The premiere Saturday evening, the closing night gala for the 20th Tribeca Festival, was seen as a symbolic reawakening of the arts in New York, where many of the world's most famous stages—Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Broadway theaters—remain dark.

But after so many pandem-

ic months of silence, that's quickly changing. On Sunday, Madison Square Garden will host its first full-capacity concert with the Foo Fighters. "Springsteen on Broadway" is set to resume performances on June 26.

After the screening, Chappelle dramatically took the stage to a thumping beat from DJ Clark Kent and a raucous standing ovation. The comedian paused for a moment to apologize for those who lost someone during the pandemic before signaling a note of revival.

Will Smith opening up, releasing memoir 'Will' in November

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Will Smith is ready to open up about his life story.

Penguin Press announced Sunday that Smith will release his memoir called "Will" on Nov. 9. The actor-rapper shared a photo of the book's cover art to more than 54 million of his followers on Instagram.



Smith

Smith said he is "finally ready" to release the memoir after working on the book for

two years. His book will be published by Penguin Press, an imprint of Penguin Random House and co-authored by Mark Manson, the author of "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F(asterisk)ck."

"It's been a labor of love," Smith said in his post.

Smith will also narrate the audio-book of "Will" from Penguin Random House Audio.

"Will" looks to tell a story

about Smith's life and career. The book will delve into him being raised in West Philadelphia to entering superstardom as an actor and rapper. He's a two-time Academy Award nominee and won a four-time Grammy winner.

Smith starred in the "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air," "Bad Boys," "Men in Black" and "Pursuit of Happiness." He's won Grammys for "Summertime," "Men In Black," "Gettin' Jiggy Wit It" and "Parents Just Don't Understand."

Landlord mother dragged into bitter breakup

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is separated from her husband, who rents a room from me. Recently, without telling her, he dropped her from his insurance. Now she wants me to kick him out and she's mad at me because I refuse to do it. She says it shows I approve of his behavior. She tells me that he's no good, he used her and he hit on her girlfriend. She's threatening that if I let him stay, we won't be close anymore.

He pays me on time, and I hardly ever see him because he works at night. I need the rent money, and we have always gotten along great. I say this is my house and I should decide if he leaves. What do you think?

IN THE MIDDLE IN FLORIDA

DEAR IN THE MIDDLE: You need to explain to your daughter that the reason her husband is living with you is because you need the income. Even if you wanted, you might not be able to kick him out right away because of whatever eviction laws may exist in your state. This is your house, and the decision whether to evict him should be yours. However, if you continue allowing him to rent from you, it may cause a breach with your daughter that could be permanent.

...

DEAR ABBY: I often feel left out. This past weekend on Facebook I saw two co-workers and a former co-worker went

on a weekend getaway. I wasn't invited. Should I retaliate, or must I act like it doesn't bother me? This isn't the first time friends and co-workers have done things like this. I'll comment on their post—"looks like fun"—but never get invited. How should I feel about this and what should I do?

OVERLOOKED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR OVERLOOKED: What you should "do" is recognize that your co-workers are not obligated to include you in anything outside of work. They may have mutual interests that bring them together, or chemistry that they don't have with you. Instead of fuming and fantasizing about "retaliating" (which would be uncalled for and inappropriate), form relationships outside this circle of co-workers and friends, and do things on weekends for yourself that are satisfying. If you do, you will be less dependent upon these individuals and less disappointed if your relationships with them aren't as close as you wish they were.

...

DEAR ABBY: I have been reading your column for many years, but haven't seen this question before. I'm a senior citizen with a do-not-resuscitate order. I am concerned that if something were to happen to me and I was taken to a nearby hospital, they wouldn't know I have one on file with my health care provider. Is there a way to let first responders know? Thank you for

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the continual service you provide.

LAST REQUEST IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR LAST REQUEST: Many individuals accomplish this by posting a notice near their bed, on the refrigerator or in their cellphone contact list designated as ICE (In Case of Emergency). There are also cards that can be carried in the wallet to alert the EMTs about the patient's wishes. Your health care provider can tell you how to get one.

...

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



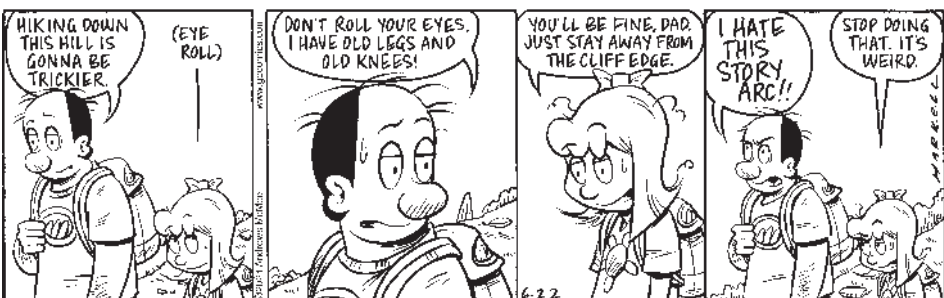
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



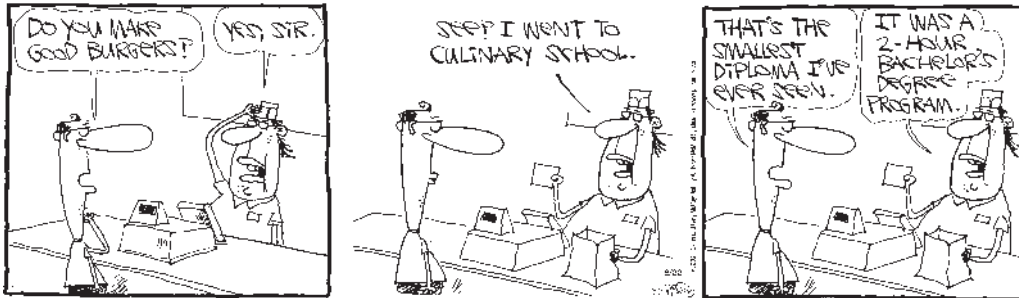
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Brazen
5 Hind
9 Urban carrier
12 Musical finale
13 Art Deco master
14 Buckeyes' sch.
15 Makeup
17 Norm (Abbr.)
18 Persia, today
19 Big rigs
21 Pie nut
24 Casual shirt
25 Nobel Prize subj.
26 In mint condition
30 Train lines (Abbr.)
31 Makes dirty
32 Pub order
33 Jamboree shelters
35 1973 Toni Morrison novel
36 Algerian seaport

DOWN

37 Hinder
38 Province of China
40 Suffix for billion
42 Hosp. areas
43 Theatrical wardrobe suppliers
48 Prefix with meter
49 New newts
50 Pennsylvania
51 Cat's coat
52 Remain
53 Arp's art

1 Down Abbr. in an email

2 Down Tic-tac-toe win

3 Down Mormon church, for short

4 Down "Billions" actor Lewis

5 Down Anti-fur org.

6 Down CNN anchor Burnett

7 Down List-ending shorthand

8 Down Tutor's sessions

9 Down Russian space explorer

10 Down Wine region

11 Down Chums

16 Down East ender?

20 Down Days of yore

21 Down Criminal, to cops

22 Down Off-white

23 Down Jointly support

24 Down Chums

26 Down German city

27 Down Dye brand

28 Down "Legally Blonde" role

29 Down Put on

31 Down Spirited meetings?

34 Down La-la lead-in

35 Down Appeared to be

37 Down Hill (R&B group)

38 Down Horse-shoe site

39 Down Pakistani language

40 Down "The Thin Man" dog

41 Down Teeny

44 Down Frequently

45 Down Notable time

46 Down Abolish

47 Down Poseidon's home

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	S	T	M	I	O	A	H	E	M		
S	T	A	N	D	S	O	N	P	F	K	F
S	A	J	E	R	N	E	O	R	E	S	
			R	A	P		P	A	G	O	D
			L	E	V	O	N		B	O	R
			P	E	A	S		S	A	U	C
			S	L	Y		S	W	A	N	S
			S	A	U	T	E	E	D		O
			G	O	L	D		S	C	L	F
			S	C	R	A	W	L		B	O
			E	L	A	N		S	A	U	S
			W	I	N	D		U	N	H	A
			N	O	T	A		P	E	P	E

Yesterday's answer 6-22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15				16					17		
			18				19	20			
21	22	23				24					
25				26	27				28	29	
30			31						32		
33			34					35			
		36					37				
38	39				40	41					
42				43	44				45	46	47
48				49					50		
51				52					53		

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Donald Faison, 47; Cyndi Lauper, 68; Graham Greene, 69; Meryl Streep, 72.

Happy Birthday: Expand your mind, check out the possibilities and explore how you can use your skills in new ways that will bring in extra cash and make you feel passionate about your long-term plans. It's ok to be different and to strive for something because it inspires you. Follow your heart, put in the work necessary to make your dreams come true. Your numbers are 6, 14, 24, 26, 33, 37, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep money matters a secret until you figure out how best to put your cash to work for you. Home improvements are favored if you can stick to a budget. Don't pay a contractor; call on friends and family for help. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Limitations and frustration will set in if you take on too much or make promises on which you cannot deliver. Pay attention to what's going on around you, and align yourself with someone who shares your home improvement goals. Romance is favored. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Verify information, and learn about something you want to pursue. Use your intelligence to get what you want instead of relying on someone to step in and take over. Put your energy where it counts, and you will excel. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the plunge and make changes that will motivate you to participate and contribute more to people, organizations and pastimes vital

to you. Be open to suggestions, but do what feels right and puts your mind at ease. Self-improvement is encouraged. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Think before you act. A premature move will be costly. Look for other alternatives before making a final decision. Take reservations seriously, and consider the best way to keep the peace without losing sight of your long-term goals. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Emotions will surface when dealing with friends, relatives and peers. Put your time and effort into something you can do on your own to help ease stress and bring you one step closer to something you are trying to achieve. 2 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): If you want to get ahead, don't overreact when your objective is to get things done. There is no point wasting time on situations and people you cannot change. Put your energy where it will encourage success and peace of mind. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Observe, stay focused and broaden your mindset regarding where and how you live. A change may not be welcome, but in the end, it will help you let go of things that are weighing you down and holding you back. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Minimalize whatever you plan to do. Baby steps will help you avoid making a mistake. Put your energy to work for you, and do your best to keep the peace. Concentrate on self-improvement and gratification, not trying to change or appease others. 3 stars

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You cannot buy love. Put your wallet away and concentrate on saving. An honest, kind approach to partnerships and love will be more effective than trying to impress someone by overstating how well off you think you are. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Being a straight shooter will win points, but it will deter some from participating in what you are trying to pursue. Let the chips fall where they may, and carry on with those who share your sentiments. Honesty is the best policy. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put more thought and energy into the things and people that make you happy. Home improvements and surprising someone you love will encourage better days ahead. A unique approach to health and fitness is in your best interest. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are original, outgoing and generous. You are passionate and unpredictable.

3: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. 2: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. 1: Focus and you'll reach your goals. 0: Aim high; start new projects. 0000: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

		4		5	1					
	2			4		3				
5		6		3	9		4			
	6	9								
8								1		
						3	2			
2		7	3			8		9		
	1		8				4			
		5		1	6					

Difficulty Level ★★

6/22

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	2	3	6	7	5	1	9	8
9	7	5	8	1	3	2	6	4
6	1	8	2	4	9	7	3	5
8	6	7	4	5	2	9	1	3
5	3	1	9	8	7	4	2	6
2	9	4	1	3	6	5	8	7
1	8	6	5	2	4	3	7	9
3	5	9	7	6	1	8	4	2
7	4	2	3	9	8	6	5	1

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PIZZA MADE IN NAPLES

Solution: 10 letters

A O O E P I C E R E S E E H C
L T L P A R M E S A N I O I I
U A I N S H P I L I L L T T S
G M V R G P R T M I A S A A S
U O E U E G I A H F A L M F A
R T O P A H L C F L Y O T L L
A D I R E A G U E S R E P A C
P N L I S A B R L A X F C V R
E I C R U S T I A T A R O O I
C P S H O R C I U M U E O R S
O W H T O E L R M N I S K I P
R O I U O V E T C E O H M C Y
I O N P A N I H T F R P H H A
N D E B A K E E T N L E R I F
O V E N E C U A S E F L O U R

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6/22

Anchovies, Aroma, Arugula, Bake, Basil, Buffalo, Capers, Cheese, Chat, Chili, Classic, Cook, Crispy, Crunch, Crust, Dough, Elastic, Fire, Flavor, Flour, Fresh, Garlic, Italy, Margherita, Olive Oil, Oven, Pan, Parmesan, Pecorino, Pepper, Recipe, Rich, Rise, Round, Salami, Salt, Sauce, Shine, Simple, Slice, Soft, Spice, Stone, Texture, Thin, Timer, Tomato, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Explosive

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Hawks head to East finals after Game 7 win in Philadelphia



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Trae Young ripped off his jersey and bounded up the steps to toss his dad the souvenir from the first Game 7 road victory in Hawks history.

Young's going to need a new uniform.

He shook off a cold shooting night and improbably helped Atlanta become road warriors one more time, and now the Hawks are taking their stunning turnaround to the Eastern Conference finals.

"We did it in a big way," Young said.

They busted the Process along the way.

Young made a late 3-pointer and scored 21 points to help Atlanta win for the third time in the series in Philadelphia, a 103-96 victory over the top-seeded 76ers on Sunday night in Game 7.

The Hawks will open their first East finals since 2015 against the Bucks on Wednesday night in Milwaukee.

"I felt like they were built for this moment tonight to win this game," coach Nate McMillan said.

Atlanta had been 0-9 in Games 7s on the road.

But the Hawks ignored their ignominious history and got one in Philly, where they already won in Game 1 and Game 5 and knocked out Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and closed the book on the debated rebuilding plan known as the Process.

"We gave them life from Game 1," 76ers forward Tobias Harris said. "It's a young, hungry team."

How's this for brazen confidence: John Collins, who had 14 point and 16 rebounds, wore for his postgame interview a T-shirt of him dunking on Embiid from Game 6.

Not so deep down, not even the Hawks could have seen this coming, especially in March when they were 14-20, 11th in the Eastern Conference and fired coach Lloyd Pierce.

Under McMillan, the Hawks turned into birds of prey and Young led a charge into the post-season for the first time since 2017 that kept rolling with a first-round win over New York.

Embiid, the NBA MVP runner-up, Simmons and a high-priced cast of stars were supposed to put the upstart Hawks in their place. It never happened.

Young shook off an otherwise off night from the floor—5 for 23—and kept shooting until he hit that 3 for a 93-87 lead with 2:31 left.

Kevin Huerter sealed the win with three free throws.

Sixers fans let the home team have it and booed them off the court and were reprimanded by the public address



announcer for throwing trash on the court.

Embiid had 31 points, 11 rebounds and eight turnovers playing with a meniscus tear in his right knee.

"I still believe if I was 100%, if we were all together," he said, "I still believe we had a shot at winning it all."

This marked only the second year since 1973 — when the NBA began seeding for the playoffs by conference — when neither No. 1 seed will make the conference finals.

Rattled by Game 7 and a packed house on the road? Not these Hawks, who took a 26-point lead in a Game 1 victory in Philly and then rallied from 26 down on the same court to pull out Game 5.

"This team is special, man," Huerter said. "Everybody has counted us out all year. For us to make it this far and win in this building in Game 7, it's huge for us."

Huerter led the Hawks with 27 points.

"With guys going out, we're definitely telling him we need him to be more aggressive and score the ball more," Young said. "He's been doing that and he did it tonight."

Young was a nonfactor in the first half. He had more pushups (three, after he was knocked to the court by Dwight Howard) than baskets (1 for 12). He even got T'd up for arguing over a rescinded foul call on the Sixers.

From New York to Philly, Young's been fearless and he refused to shrink down the

stretch even when his shots didn't fall.

"I knew I had to find a way," Young said. "My shot was off. My right hand and shoulder were giving out. But my teammates showed up and made plays. I wanted to come through in the end and help them out."

Suns 120, Clippers 114

In Phoenix, Devin Booker's first exposure to playoff basketball continues to be a revelation.

Not necessarily for him, but for the rest of the NBA.

Booker had 40 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his first career triple-double and the Phoenix Suns overcame Chris Paul's absence to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 120-114 on Sunday in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

"I don't understand why

everyone's acting surprised at this point," Suns forward Jae Crowder said about Booker's big day. "This is his first time on this stage but he's capable. He's more than capable. He's more than ready. He prepares like no other."

Paul sat out because of COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Clippers star Kawhi Leonard missed his third straight game because of a sprained right knee.

Tied at 93 to start the fourth, the Suns went on a 12-2 run and pulled ahead 105-95 on Cam Johnson's dunk with 8:08 remaining. The Clippers wouldn't go away, though, cutting a 10-point deficit in the final two minutes to 116-114 when Terance Mann hit a 3-pointer with 22 seconds left.

But that's where the rally

Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young reacts after the Hawks won Game 7 in a second-round NBA basketball playoff series against the Philadelphia 76ers, Sunday, June 20, 2021, in Philadelphia.

stopped for Los Angeles.

"I have no excuse," Clippers coach Tyronn Lue said. "I thought we played hard and competed. A little credit—they were making shots and we didn't. But I loved our fight. I loved what I saw."

Booker scored on a dunk on the next possession to seal Phoenix's eighth straight victory, getting a free lane to the basket on the blown defensive coverage. The sixth-year guard was a surprising omission from the All-NBA teams released a few days ago but he certainly looked the part on Sunday.

He wasn't worried about where this game ranks among his best performances.

"I'll let you guys do the rankings," Booker said. "I'm just going out there to win every game possible. I've been saying this since the start of the playoffs—every next game is the biggest game."

Game 2 is on Tuesday night in Phoenix.

Booker continues to cement his superstar status and was productive and efficient in one of the best games of his career. He shot 15 of 29 from the field, carving apart a defense that had to play just 36 hours after closing out the Utah Jazz on Friday night.

The third quarter featured a stellar scoring duel between Booker and L.A.'s Paul George, who finished with 34 points. Booker scored 18 points in the quarter, and George had 15, including a 3-pointer that tied it at 93 heading to the fourth.

The Suns led 76-68 midway through the third but George scored eight straight points—including six points on two long 3-pointers—to tie it up. It was the start of a 16-2 run that helped Los Angeles take an 84-78 lead.

Booker and the Suns responded quickly. Booker scored 12 points—mostly on mid-range jumpers—in the final 3:09 of the third to get Phoenix back on track. Then Phoenix rolled through the fourth quarter.

"We got to figure out how to counter, which we will, figure out another game plan," George said. "I think this was a good feel-out game to see adjustments. We have been great at adjusting."

Deandre Ayton had 20 points and nine rebounds for the Suns. Cameron Payne started for Paul and had 11 points and nine assists.

Reggie Jackson added 24 points for the Clippers.

Nets had the shooting and scoring, but needed more health

NEW YORK (AP)—The Brooklyn Nets had all the shooting and scoring any team could ever want.

They just didn't have the health that every team needs.

Kevin Durant was spectacular in his first postseason in Brooklyn, but by the end of it a Big Three was down to 1 1/2. Kyrie Irving was on the bench and James Harden probably should have been.

That's the way it often went for Brooklyn after putting together its three superstars. On paper, it looked unstoppable.

On the court, it just wasn't seen all that much.

"We gave it everything we had," Harden said. "Just

having to deal with injuries throughout the course of the year set us back."

That contributed to an ending far earlier than the Nets anticipated. Brooklyn was eliminated with a 115-111 overtime loss to the Milwaukee Bucks on Saturday in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Irving missed the final 3 1/2 games of the series with a sprained right ankle. Harden played only 43 seconds of Games 1-4 because of right hamstring tightness, then came back without much mobility to play the final three.

Things like that happened plenty for the Nets. Just as one

All-Star would come back, another would go out. Durant, Irving and Harden played in the same game only eight times during the regular season and got only one round together in the postseason.

"So much adversity this year," coach Steve Nash said. "First year together. So many changes to the roster. So many injuries. COVID protocols. They couldn't have given us anything more."

The Nets went 48-24, the best winning percentage in franchise history and the second-best record in the East. They were second in the league in scoring and 3-point percentage, led the league

in field goal percentage and reached 120 points 34 times, nearly half their games.

But that firepower was gone by midway through the second round. All the Nets really had left was Durant, and that was almost enough. He had 49 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists in Game 5 and then 48 points, most ever in a Game 7, while playing all 53 minutes.

The plan was for him to have more help and win more games.

"We want to win," Durant said. "We want to win every game we play. We want to win a championship every year, just like every team."

They didn't get nearly close enough.

Yanks turn third triple play in month, beat A's, 2-1

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Yankees manager Aaron Boone knew it off the bat.

"Usually, a triple play sneaks up on you," he said. "Right away, I'm thinking, 'That's a triple play.'"

New York turned its record-tying third triple play of the season to strand the go-ahead run in the ninth inning, bailing out closer Aroldis Chapman from a shaky outing and closing down a 2-1 win over the Oakland Athletics on Sunday.

Gary Sánchez spoiled Sean Manaea's gem with a go-ahead two-run double in the sixth inning, and relievers Jonathan Loaisiga (7-2) and Lucas Luetge turned a 2-1 lead over to Chapman in the ninth.

A day after reaching 103.4 mph during his 15th save — his fastest pitch on a strikeout since the 2017 AL wild-card game — Chapman walked Jed Lowrie and Chad Pinder on nine pitches, topping out at 98 mph.

He was visited by an athletic trainer because the nail in his left middle finger broke but stayed in the game to face Sean Murphy, who drilled the second pitch of the at-bat right at third baseman Gio Urshela.

Urshela stepped on third and whizzed the ball to DJ LeMahieu, and the second baseman relayed to first baseman Chris Gittens to get Murphy by a step.

"You're around long enough, you see everything," longtime A's manager Bob Melvin said. "I've never seen a game end like that before."

New York also turned the first 1-3-6-2-5-6 triple play in major league history on Thursday at Buffalo against the Blue Jays and also had an around-the-horn triple play on May 21 against the Chicago White Sox involving Urshela, second baseman Rougned Odor and first baseman Luke Voit. The storied franchise had never turned more than one triple play in a season and tied a major league record for most in a season, last accomplished by the 2016 Chicago White Sox.

The triple plays have happened over 31 days, the shortest span ever for three by a big league team.

Chapman's 16th save in 18 tries sent Oakland to its first road series loss this season after eight wins and a split. The A's had just four hits.

Loaisiga cleaned up Yankees starter Jordan Montgomery's jam in the sixth and covered 1 2/3 scoreless innings, helping New York lock up its fifth win in six games — all when trailing after the fifth.

"It felt like a big series, coming off some really quality wins in Buffalo," Boone said.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 4

In Baltimore, Reese McGuire



AP
New York Yankees DJ LeMahieu, left, Tyler Wade, center, and Clint Frazier, right, celebrate after the Yankees completed a triple play to defeat the Oakland Athletics in the top of the ninth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, June 20, 2021, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

had three doubles during a four-hit performance.

Hyun Jin Ryu (6-4) gave up one run and three hits in seven innings, retiring 17 of his last 18 batters, and Tyler Chatwood handled the ninth for his first save since 2019.

Trey Mancini homered twice for Baltimore, which has dropped 10 of its last 11 and is an

Matt Harvey (3-9) allowed four runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings. He is 0-8 with an 11.49 ERA in nine starts since May 7,

Nationals 5, Mets 2

In Washington, Kyle Schwarber homered three times and tied a major league record with five in a two-game span, and Washington took three of four.

Schwarber set a Nationals/Montreal Expos record by homering nine times in a 10-game span, increasing his total to 18 this season with his first career three homer-game.

Patrick Corbin (5-5) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings with seven strikeouts and a walk.

Taijuan Walker (6-3) dropped to 2-3 on the road to go along with a 4-0 mark at home. He allowed four runs and a season-high 10 hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Fan favorite Gerardo Parra doubled in his return to the Nationals, his "Baby Shark" walkup music preceding his pinch-hit appearance.

Indians 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Josh Naylor foiled Pittsburgh's strategy with an RBI single in the seventh off Chasen Shreve, who had relieved starter JT Brubaker (4-6).

James Karinchak struck out Colin Moran looking, stranding Kevin Newman at second in the ninth for his eighth save. Cleveland avoided a three-game sweep by the Pirates.

Jacob Stallings tied it 1-all with a two-out single off Phil

Maton (2-0) in the sixth.

Cardinals 9, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Drew Smyly (4-3) didn't allow a hit until the sixth inning, Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his 100th career homer, his 19th this season, and Atlanta earned a split of a day-night doubleheader.

Smyly held the Cardinals hitless until Paul Goldschmidt reached on an infield single with two outs in the sixth. Closer Will Smith pitched the seventh of the shortened doubleheader under pandemic rules, earning his 13th save.

Acuña, playing in his 378th game, homered in the third off Kwang Hyun Kim (1-5).

Adam Wainwright (5-5) struck out 11 and pitched a three-hitter for his 26th complete game to win the opener.

Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer off Bryse Wilson (2-3) in the first and Goldschmidt added a three-run shot off Josh Tomlin in the fifth.

Astros 8, White Sox 2

In Dallas, Dallas Keuchel (6-2) lost in his first appearance against Houston, and Abraham Toro had a career-high four hits, improving to 7 for 11 since his recall from the minor leagues.

Keuchel, a two-time All-Star for the Astros who helped the franchise win its first World Series title in 2017, won the 2015 AL Cy Young Award with Houston. He went 76-63 in seven seasons with the Astros and left after the 2019 season to sign a \$55.5 million, three-year contract with Chicago.

Keuchel tied a season high by allowing six runs — three earned — in a season-low 2 2/3 innings as the AL Central leaders lost their season-high fourth straight. He gave up seven hits and four walks.

Lance McCullers Jr. (4-1) gave up two runs and two hits

in six innings and Carlos Correa homered for the Astros.

Royals 7, Red Sox 3

In Kansas City, Mo., Jarrod Dyson capped a 10-pitch at-bat with a tiebreaking, two-run double in a three-run third inning off Nathan Eovaldi (7-4).

Kansas City won its first series since taking two games from Pittsburgh on May 31 and June 1.

Mike Minor (6-4) allowed two runs and nine hits over 6 2/3 innings for the Royals, who had lost 12 of their previous 14 games.

Whit Merrifield got his 800th major league hit in the first and hit a two-run homer in the sixth.

Cubs 2, Marlins 0

In Chicago, Alec Mills (3-1) and three relievers combined on a six-hitter as Chicago avoided a sweep after being outscored 21-3 in the previous two days.

Jorge Alfaro had a run-scoring passed ball in the third as Zach Thompson (1-2) allowed an unearned run. Joc Pederson had an RBI single in the fifth that scored pinch-hitter Patrick Wisdom, who singled to end a 15-pitch at-bat against Ross Detweiler.

Craig Kimbrel got his 20th save.

Twins 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Byron Buxton launched an early two-run homer into the second deck off Dane Dunning (2-6), a day after returning following 39 games out with a strained right hip.

Minnesota won its fourth straight and extended Texas' losing streak to a season-worst six. The Rangers have lost 19 of 22.

Kenta Maeda (3-2) earned his first win since May 3, allowing two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings.

Minnesota slugger Nelson

Cruz exited with neck tightness after singling in the first inning and striking out on three pitches in the third.

Brewers 7, Rockies 6

In Denver, Daniel Vogelbach hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth off Daniel Bard (3-4).

Colorado trailed 6-0 in the sixth before Yonathan Daza hit a two-run homer off Eric Lauer and Trevor Story followed with a 466-foot shot to chase the Milwaukee starter.

Zack Godley gave up a single, then a 456-foot homer to C.J. Cron to make it 6-5. Joshua Fuentes tied it with the fourth of the inning.

Devin Williams (3-1) struck out the side in the eighth, and Brad Boxberger pitched the ninth for his third save.

Giants 11, Phillies 2

In San Francisco, Wilmer Flores had four hits, including two of San Francisco's four home runs.

Brandon Crawford hit his 16th homer and Mike Yastrzemski combined with Flores for consecutive homers in the first off Zach Eflin (2-6). San Francisco has 107 home runs, tied with Toronto for the major league lead.

Sammy Long (1-0), a 25-year-old left-hander who debuted June 9, won his first major league start. Long allowed two runs and four hits in six innings with six strikeouts and one walk. He retired 10 of his final 11 batters.

Eflin allowed seven runs — six earned — and nine hits in five innings. He is 0-5 in his last seven starts.

Padres 7, Marlins 5

In San Diego, Wil Myers hit a two-run triple off Luis Castillo (2-10) in the third and scored on Joey Votto's errant throw as San Diego completed its first

four-game sweep of any team since Aug. 18-21, 2011, against the Marlins.

Padres star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. sat out a day after reinjuring his left shoulder in a 7-5 win.

Dinelson Lamet (2-2) held the Reds to four hits in five scoreless innings, struck out a season-high seven and walked one. Mark Melancon pitched the ninth for his 21st save, tops in the big leagues.

Mariners 6, Rays 2

In Seattle, Shed Long Jr. hit a grand slam against Diego Castillo (2-4) with two outs in the 10th inning and Seattle completed a four-game sweep that extended Tampa Bay's losing streak to six.

The Ray, who led in all four games, had not been swept in a four-game series since the Tigers completed the feat on July 3, 2016.

Rafael Montero (4-2) pitched a perfect 10th.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 8

In Phoenix, Albert Pujols hit a three-run homer and passed Mel Ott for 14th on the career runs list, and Los Angeles extended Arizona's losing streak to 17 games. Pujols' 673rd home run put Los Angeles ahead 4-0 against Alex Young (2-5).

Arizona trailed 9-2 before closing with six runs in the eighth, when Josh Reddick, Christian Walker and Ketel Marte had run-scoring hits before Josh Rojas' inning-ending groundout against Victor Gonzalez stranded runners at the corners.

Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save. Garrett Cleavinger (2-3) got four outs.

Tigers 5, Angels 3

In Anaheim, Calif., Shohei Ohtani hit his 23rd homer, his sixth in six games, but Daz Cameron's two-run single in the 10th off Raisel Iglesias (4-3) helped Detroit avoid a four-game sweep.

Miguel Cabrera had a two-run single in the fifth for the Tigers, who finished their road trip at 4-3 despite getting outscored 26-11 in the first three games in Anaheim.

Jose Cisnero (1-4) pitched two hitless innings, and Michael Fulmer pitched the 10th for his sixth save, walking Ohtani with two outs before striking out Taylor Ward.

Rahm birdies last 2 holes to win US Open at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Whether it was destiny or karma was of no relevance to Jon Rahm. He won the U.S. Open on Sunday at Torrey Pines, the perfect time and the perfect place to become a major champion.

How it unfolded was beyond his dreams.

One shot behind and running out of holes, Rahm made a sweeping, left-to-right birdie putt from 25 feet on the 17th hole to tie for the lead, and closed with another bending 18-foot birdie putt that gave him a one-shot victory over hard-luck Louis Oosthuizen.

No one had ever birdied the last two holes to win the U.S. Open by one shot in the previous 120 editions of the toughest test in golf until Rahm's storybook finish.

"It had to happen in a beautiful setting like this," he said.

At Torrey Pines, where he made a 50-foot eagle putt on

the final hole to clinch his first PGA Tour victory.

On Father's Day, with his 10-week-old son in his arms and his father having flown in from Spain to witness his son winning his first major to return to No. 1 in the world.

And just two weeks after his six-shot lead was wiped out at the Memorial because of a positive COVID-19 test that knocked him out of the tournament and cut into his U.S. Open preparations.

"It felt like such a fairy tale story that I knew it was going to have a happy ending," Rahm said after those two career-changing birdies gave him a 4-under 67. "I could just tell, going down the fairway after that first tee shot, that second shot, and that birdie, I knew there was something special in the air. I could just feel it."

"I just knew that I could do



it and believed it."

He picked up two prizes Sunday. First, he cradled young Kepa when he walked off the 18th green with the roars still ringing in his ears. Then, he hoisted that silver U.S. Open trophy, the first

champion from Spain.

Rahm was on the practice range when Oosthuizen, who fell two shots behind with a most untimely tee shot into the canyon that led to bogey on the 17th hole, failed to hole out his wedge for eagle

at the end. "Little man, you have no idea what this means right now," Rahm said to his son. "You will soon enough."

The final round was so tight that six players had a share of the lead at some point, and there were 10 players separated by a single shot.

And then that special brand of U.S. Open chaos hit everyone but Rahm, the only contender not to drop a shot on the back nine.

Four players who were within one shot of the lead on the back nine made double bogeys, a list that included a shocking meltdown by defending champion Bryson

DeChambeau.

No one was immune from trouble. Oosthuizen, who had a two-shot lead after his 30-foot birdie putt on No. 10, was the last to fall.

Trailing by one shot, Oosthuizen drove into the canyon left of the 17th fairway for a bogey that left him two shots behind, and then he missed the fairway on the par-5 18th that kept him from going for the green for a look at eagle to force a playoff.

He settled for a birdie and a 71. It was his second straight runner-up in a major, and his sixth silver medal since he won the British Open in 2010 at St. Andrews.

"Look, it's frustrating. It's disappointing," Oosthuizen said. "I'm playing good golf, but winning a major championship is not just going to happen. You need to go out and play good golf. I played good today, but I didn't play good enough."

91

From Page 20

CNMI's national team in four years," he said during a break in the clinic last Friday. "I think that's what was lacking in the past, just putting out teams for national events."

As for his take on the coaches, Rabago said he's happy to report that all of them were like sponges and was thankful that they allowed him to give them advice. He added that he also learned a thing or two from them as the coaching

clinic went on.

"We worked together the first couple of days and I gave them sort of my style. They can add to their way or take away anything [from what I taught]," he said.

The week-long clinic for coaches and up-and-coming players left a good impression on coaches like former CNMI national player Tyce Mister.

"This clinic went over the most important cues for four skills—serving, passing, setting, and attacking. And some drills to practice the

cues. I think it was great for the variety of levels of players we hosted. We had a lot of interest which is amazing, but challenging to move things along. Coach Mike did well. Next time we'll break down into smaller groups which provides opportunities to do even more. The cues are important reminders and it gave me some things to work on in my own playing," he said.

For Jacoby Winkfield, the coaching clinic conducted by Rabago was engaging but

more importantly added to his knowledge of volleyball.

"He did a great job of breaking the game down to manageable chunks. I learned several new drills which can be applied to all skill levels, from novice to seasoned players. Thanks to NMIVA for all the hard work you have put into reviving volleyball in the CNMI. It was encouraging to see so many of our youth interested and loving volleyball," he said.

Rick Manzano, for his part, said he just feels privileged to

have learned from Rabago. "Mike is a level 3 coach in the FIVB and we're just fortunate to learn from him. It's been a long time since any of our teams—men and women—won in any level in the region. I think Mike said it was way back in 2009. I'm happy to see a lot of high school and middle school kids join the last two days of the clinic. This coaching clinic hopefully would bring CNMI volleyball back on the map," he said in Filipino.

Rabago, who will be back

next month for his third and final visit to Saipan to conduct the series of coaching clinics, reiterated that his intention all along is to improve the state of volleyball in the CNMI.

"I'm excited to see a lot of coaches and kids come out during the weeklong coaching clinic. You'd never know...I may see these guys in four years and I'm coaching my team and I'm going up against them. But it's OK I love [developing] good players," said the Team Guam volleyball coach.

NMBA

From Page 20

him back to the time when he used to play badminton as a very young boy. He said back then he would just hit the shuttlecock in all directions, but last week with the NMBA players holding a session at the GMS Chalan Kiya campus, he learned to swing the racket properly and have some sort of control with the way he hit the shuttlecock. Antonino added that it's better to learn the drills with his classmates and friends.

GMS president Glenn Songcuan watched their students participated in the drills and is happy with their response to the program.

"Several of our students are now showing an interest for badminton and requesting for our own school to have equipment. For many of them, it was a new and very fun experience. Thank you so much to NMBA for sharing that experience with our school and students," said Songcuan, adding that at GMS, physical activity and education are definitely



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School students, faculty, and management pose for a group photo with Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials after attending a Shuttle Time session at the Falcons' grounds last Tuesday.

a regular part of their educational curriculum.

Meanwhile, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino said the session at GMS is just part of a series of Shuttle Time events that the association will be conducting this month and in July. Also scheduled for June are sessions with Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Mt. Carmel School students.

"We will continue to reach out to schools to provide op-

portunities to as many students as we can. We, at NMBA, believe that bringing badminton, through Shuttle Time, to the scholastic level is critical in our efforts to grow the sport in the CNMI and find local talents that can represent the islands in future regional and international competitions," Tolentino said.

Before the Shuttle Time stop at GMS, the NMBA took a break from hosting the program in schools in March due

to the reimplementing of stricter COVID-19 safety protocols and continued the lull in April and May to give way to graduation preparations and ceremonies. Shuttle Time is a Badminton World Federation-led initiative that aims at bringing the sport closer to students by offering schools access to free resources, training, and equipment to support the teaching of enjoyable and safe badminton activities to children. (PR)

CUKI

From Page 20

nately due to the accident, Frank was forced to pull out of his fight in this UFC card..."

Camacho has since been rejoined by his wife Sarah and their youngest daughter in California. As for Alvarez, he said they are now making arrangements to fly him back home to the CNMI.

"I'm totally fine, escaped unscathed. Old man strength!" he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Last June 8 or a couple of days before his fight in UFC 263, Alvarez and Camacho were returning from Redondo Beach in Los Angeles en route back to Irvine when a large SUV side-swiped them on the 405 Freeway's carpool lane while they were traveling around 75 mph.

"Everything happened so fast. The SUV was on the farthest left lane and I guess somehow lost control and slammed into the retaining wall on his left then ricochet right into our car on Frank's side (driver) causing us to lose control and drift toward our right onto the other lanes. We drifted and swerved and almost got

totally out of control but managed to save it. All the while as we were drifting, the SUV that hit us, flipped over our hood and crashed taking out several other cars that were trailing on the other four lanes. It was so crazy and all of the cars ended up piling up along the far right shoulder smashing against the other retaining wall on that side," recalled Alvarez.

Camacho and Alvarez were transported to Los Alamitos Medical Center via ambulance and the two were there for five hours. "Frank needed x-rays and a CT scan and eventually was ordered to get an MRI to make sure because the doctors eventually found two ruptured discs in his neck and spine," said Alvarez.

For the record, Camacho had four ruptured discs—C4, C6, C7, and T1—that resulted from the severe whiplash caused by the side impact on the June 8 car accident.

Due to the injuries he sustained in the accident, Camacho was forced to withdraw from that weekend's UFC 263 showdown against Matt Frevola. He was eventually replaced by Terrence McKinney in the UFC 263 fight-card.



Hawks head to East
finals after Game 7
win in Philadelphia

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rahm birdies last 2
holes to win US Open
at Torrey Pines

PAGE 19



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

20 TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021

91 attend last day of volleyball clinic



By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Volleyball is alive and kicking in the CNMI as evidenced by the 91 youth that took part in the final day of the weeklong clinic organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association last Friday at the Agape Gymnasium along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago spearheaded the clinic and was happy on the turnout and said the number of young players showing interest in the sport of volleyball bodes very well for NMIVA.

"The biggest thing is for the federation to get some num-

bers and names. So, we have something stable for the federation. Right now it's summer and the interest is there for volleyball. They won't come if they really don't want to learn," he said.

Rabago said he saw a lot of talent and dedication during



the final two days of the coaching clinic, where players 18-and-under took part. The first two days were designated for volleyball coaches.

"This group over here is what could possibly be the

See 91 on Page 19

Cuki: 'The Crank' in good spirits

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While there's no timetable yet on Frank "The Crank" Cama-



cho's return to the octagon cage, the Marianas mixed martial arts fighter is finally out of the hospital and is now rehabilitating from injuries he sustained after figuring in a multi-vehicle accident last June 8, California time.

"Frank is in very good spirits and is now just recovering and healing. He already started therapy," said Trench Tech Gym founder and Camacho's cornerman, Cuki Alvarez, in a social media message to the Saipan Tribune.

Camacho currently is un-

dergoing his therapy and rehabilitation sessions at Kessler Family Wellness in

Tustin, California.

"Thanks Dr. William Kessler at Kessler Family Wellness for the help. Recovery and rehab currently undergoing well," said Camacho in a post in his social media account.

Alvarez, who was also in the vehicle with Camacho when the accident happened, said Camacho is on his way back to recovery and just needs time and rehabilitation to return to his old self.

"We are OK and we're back at his friend's apartment resting up. Unfortu-

See CUKI on Page 19

NMBA holds Shuttle Time at GMS

Shuttle Time is back in the CNMI with the Northern Marianas Badminton Association bringing the program to Green Meadow School's Chalan Kiya campus last weekend.

NMBA vice president Nate Guerrero and directors Janelle Pangilinan and Andreau Galvez, who represented the CNMI in the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa, conducted the Shuttle Time session at the GMS ground and taught nearly 20 students the basic skills and drills in badminton.

Incoming sixth grader Ysabella Mallari and seventh grader Andres Antonino were among the attendees of the Shuttle Time session and welcomed the event as part of their activities for the early summer camp.

"I like the drill called bouncing bird because we get



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Badminton Association director Andreau Galvez, left, demonstrates to Green Meadow School students the proper way to hold a racket during a Shuttle Time session at the Falcons' grounds last Tuesday.

to learn how to hit the shuttlecock properly. It was fun even though we keep dropping the

shuttlecock," the 11-year-old Mallari said.

For 12-year-old Antonino,

joining Shuttle Time brought

See NMBA on Page 19



FACEBOOK

Marianas mixed martial arts fighter Frank "The Crank" Camacho poses with Dr. William Kessler at Kessler Family Wellness.